THE NEW
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A file photo of OJ Simpson arriving at the Clark County Regional Justice Center, Las Vegas, for a preliminary hearing, on November 8, 2007 | AFP

OJ SIMPSON DIES AT 76

OJ Simpson, the decorated football superstar who was acquitted of charges of killing his former wife and her friend but was found liable in a separate civil trial, died of prostate cancer in Las Vegas on Wednesday. He was 76. Simpson earned fame and fortune through football and showbiz, but his legacy was forever changed by the June 1994 knife slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman in Los Angeles | P13

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KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD

(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, FAX No. 0471-2945647),
E-mail : oncocare@kmscl.kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/15/2024 Date : 08.04.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/ loan licensees on behalf of Animal Husbandry Department, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of Veterinary Medicines for the year 2023-24.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/AHD-VET/RC/2024/004 dtd. 08.04.2024	Veterinary Medicines	60

The last date and time of online uploading of tender will be 02.05.2024, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 06.05.2024 11.00 am. Tender shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.**

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

This may be published in Newspapers and TV from the day following the last date for withdrawal of candidature and upto two days before the date of poll

Format C-1

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No.536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs Union of India Anr.)

Name and address of candidate : **Mr. MANSOOR ALI KHAN**
No.200/C, 7th Main, 3rd Block
Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 011

Name of political party (Independent candidate should write "Independent" here) : **INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (INC)**

Name of Election : ELECTION TO THE HOUSE OF PEOPLE

*Name of Constituency : NO.25 - BENGALURU CENTRAL PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

I Mr. MANSOOR ALI KHAN, a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

(A) Pending criminal cases

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Case No. and dated	Status of case (s)	Section (s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offences (s)
1.	**Hon'ble XXII Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Secunderabad**	**Crime No. 231/2023 dated 22.11.2023 Market Police Station, Secunderabad**	**The case is still in the investigation stage**	**Section 143, 188, 341, 290 R/w 149 of Indian Penal Code & Section 21/76 of CPA**

(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences

*Sl. No.	Name of Court & date (s)	Description of offence (s) & punishment imposed	Maximum Punishment Imposed
-NIL-	-NIL-	-NIL-	-NIL-
-NIL-	-NIL-	-NIL-	-NIL-
-NIL-	-NIL-	-NIL-	-NIL-
-NIL-	-NIL-	-NIL-	-NIL-
-NIL-	-NIL-	-NIL-	-NIL-

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Note :-

1. The particulars regarding criminal cases pending against the candidate shall be in bold letters.
2. The matter in newspapers shall be published in font size of at least 12.
3. Details should be given separately for each case in separate rows.
4. If a candidate is contesting an election on the ticket of a particular party, he/ she is required to inform the party about the criminal cases pending against him/her.
5. The candidate shall report about publishing of declaration regarding criminal cases immediately after such publication to the Returning Officer. In addition, he shall submit a report about publishing of the declaration regarding cases in Format C-4 along with the account of election expenses within 30 days of declaration of result of election. (a) In case of elections to the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies, this shall be submitted to District Election Officer concerned, (b) In case of elections to the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislative Council, this shall be submitted to the Returning Officer concerned.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE THAT **SMT.KOMALAMMA** Residing at No.33/1, 5th Cross, Bommanahalli, Anekal Bangalore. she is the absolute owner of the Northern portion of the Property bearing House list Khatha No.34, Khatha No.109, measuring East to West 40ft and North to South 15ft total measuring 600Sq.ft and bounded on

East : Road, West : Private property, North : Site No.35, South : Remaining portion of the same property belongs to Kumaramma.

My client intended to mortgage said property. She lost the Original Confirmation deed bearing vide No. BMH-1-05630-2015-16 dated 21.11.2015 registered in Bommanahalli Bangalore South Taluk while travelling and she lodged the Police Complaint dtd 11.04.2024.

Any Person/Firm/institution/Company having any claim or right in respect of the said property by way of sale agreement, Mortgage, lease, lien, gift possession, legal heirs partners or any kind of encumbrance whomsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to under signed within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share of Claim, if any with all supporting documents failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim and the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on our clients. And if anyone found the same kindly contact the below address

GIRISH V AND SHIVASHANKAR BOLAJADAR
Office address # 76, 1st Floor,
10th Cross, Cocount Avenue Road,
Malleshwara, Bengaluru.
Phone +91 8050467298 / 9886279065

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Re-engagement on contract basis

Construction Organisation, South Western Railway invites applications for Re-engagement on contract basis as **LAND ACQUISTION ASSOCIATE** from eligible Retired State Government employees who had superannuated from Revenue/Forests Department as Revenue Inspectors OR alike, Or in Pay Band 27650-52650, 30350-58250 of Karnataka State Govt. Pay scale OR regular Group 'C' post in Pay Level - 7 of 7th CPC or equivalent.

Total number of requirements is for 08 posts.

The Last Date for receipt of Applications through e-mail at **recruitment.cnswr@gmail.com** is **30-04-2024** in a Single and Legible PDF File .

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Construction/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/12/AAD/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

Registered Office:- 27 BKC, C 27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051.
Branch Office: No. 22, ING House, M G Road, Bangalore – 560001.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.(KMBL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s)to pay to KMBL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to KMBL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice & NPA Date and Amount	Description of secured assets (immovable property)
LOAN ACCOUNT LAP18408776 (92090842) **1. Mr. B M Janardhan** No 13, 2nd Cross, Shabarinagara, Byataryanapura, Sahakara Nagar, Bangalore - 560092. **...(Borrower)** **2. Mrs Rudramma V** No 13, 2nd Cross, Shabarinagara, Byataryanapura, Sahakara Nagar, Bangalore - 560092 **Also AT :** Site No 41& 42,BBMP Khatha No 229/225, Kodigehalli, Kothihosahalli and Byatarayanapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, 60 ft Road, Sahakaranagara, Bangalore – 560092 **...(Co-Borrower)**	**NPA DATE 09-04-2024 Demand Notice Date: 10-04-2024 Rs. 2,27,32,647.58/-** (Rupees Two Crore Twenty Seven Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Six Hundred Forty Seven and Paise Fifty Eight Only) **as on 10-04-2024**	**Item No 1:** All the Piece and Parcel of the Property bearing Site No 41, BBMP Khatha No 229/224, formed by the Ministry of Communications Employees Co-Operative Housing Limited, in the layout formed by the BDA in several Survey numbers at Kodigehalli, Kothihosahalli and Byatarayanapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, named as Sahakaranagara, G Block, Bangalore – 560092, measuring a total area of 456.66 Sq Yards/ Meters and **Bounded on East by :** Property bearing No 40 **West by :** Property bearing No 42 **North by :** Private property **South by :** 60 ft Road **Item No 2:** All the Piece and Parcel of the Property bearing Site No 42,BBMP Khatha No 229/225, formed by the Ministry of Communications Employees Co- Operative Housing Limited, in the layout formed by the BDA in several Survey numbers at Kodigehalli, Kothihosahalli and Byatarayanapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, named as Sahakaranagara, G Block, Bangalore – 560092, measuring a total area of 531 Sq Yards/ Meters and **Bounded on East by :** Property bearing No 41 **West by :** Property bearing No 43 **North by :** Private property **South by :** 60 ft Road

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to KMBL as aforesaid, KMBL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of KMBL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 12-04-2024

Sd/- (Authorised Officer)
For Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE THAT, my client is intending to purchase All that piece and parcel of the below mentioned property from **Sri. Manjunatha Reddy,** aged about 50 years Residing at #115, Ram Mandir Road, Sarakki Village 1st Phase, J.P Nagar, Bangalore-560078.

Any person/firm/ institution/ company/ Bank /financial institution having any claim/lien/right/ interest over the schedule Property by way of inheritance, share, sale agreement, mortgage, lease, lien, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby notified to intimate in writing to the undersigned immediately about his/her/their claim if any with all supporting documents, failing which the transaction shall be completed presuming that no claims from anybody and such claims if any in future shall not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the vacant site bearing No.7, carved out of converted lands in Sy No.16/2,16/3 and 16/4 vide Conversion Order No.B.DIS.A.L.N.S.R.187/81-82, measuring East to west 40 feet and North to south 60 feet, in all totally measuring 2400 square feet, situated at Sarakki Lake Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore- 560078, and bounded as follows: **East by :** Road, **West by :** Private Property, **North by :** Site No.8, **South by :** Site No.6

Advocates for Prospective Purchasers.
Sri. R.S. PRASANNA KUMAR and **KIRAN GOWDA .M,** Advocates
No.19/1, 2nd Floor, S-6, K.C.D Complex, C.S.I Compound, III Cross, Mission Road, Bangalore-560 027. Mob: 9980175904

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **Sri.Adithya Reddy** Residing at Flat No.502, West Block, RJ Gradens. 17th E Cross, Eshwar Layout, Indiranagar 1st Stage, Bangalore-560038 intended to entered into an Joint Development Agreement with respect to property bearing BBMP Katha No.121/Sy No.55/2 Municipal No.121, Converted Sy No.55/2 (Converted for residential purpose vide conversion order No.ALN (EB)(KAA) SR 37/2010-11 dated 18/10/2010 issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District, Bangalore) situated at Kumbena Agrahara, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk presently Bangalore East Taluk which is morefully described herein in below as the Schedule A and B Property from its owners Sri.T.Jeetendra Kumar and Sri.T.Manjunath children of Late Sri.Thimmarayappa and Late Muniyamma, any person or persons, organization/authority having any objection to this transaction may kindly file Written Objections with the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publishing of this Public Notice, failing which my client shall construe that there is no objection from any quarter to the said transaction and my client shall complete the transaction without any encumbrances.

SCHEDULE-A PROPERTY BELONGS TO SRI.T.JEETENDRA KUMAR

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF immovable property being portion of converted Sy No.55/2 present BBMP Katha No.121/Sy No.55/2 Municipal No.121, (Converted for residential purpose vide conversion order No.ALN (EB)(KAA) SR 37/2010-11 dated 18/10/2010 issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District, Bangalore) situated at Kumbena Agrahara, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk presently Bangalore East Taluk presently within the limits of BBMP measuring 1 acres 07.35 guntas or 51564.15 Sq Ft out of 2 acres 01 guntas along with all rights, privileges and appurtenances attached thereto and bounded on the: **East by** : Road, **West by** : Land belongs to Manjunath.T and Sri.Narayana Reddy
North by : Shakthi Fairmont Apartment
South by : Land belongs to Manjunath.T and Sri.Narayana Reddy

SCHEDULE-B PROPERTY BELONGS TO SRI.T.MANJUNATH

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF immovable property being portion of present BBMP Katha No.121/Sy No.55/2 Municipal No.121, converted Sy No.55/2 (Converted for residential purpose vide conversion order No.ALN (EB)(KAA) SR 37/2010-11 dated 18/10/2010 issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District, Bangalore) situated at Kumbena Agrahara, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk presently Bangalore East Taluk presently within the limits of BBMP measuring 6534 Sq Ft out of 2 acres 01 guntas which is in the south western corner of the land along with all rights, privileges and appurtenances attached thereto and bounded on the: **East by** : Remaining portion of Sy No.55/2, **West by** : Land belongs to Sri.Narayana Reddy, **North by** : Road
South by : Land belongs to and Sri.Narayana Reddy

Bangalore Dated : 11/04/2024

B.R.MANJUNATH ADVOCATE
No.103, 1st Floor, East Wing, Kurubarasangha Building, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009
Ph.9886307964

PUBLIC NOTICE

Form No. INC - 26

[Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]

BEFORE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, SOUTH EAST REGION, HYDERABAD TELANGANA AND IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES ACT, 2013, SECTION 13(4) OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND RULE 30(5)(a) OF THE COMPANIES (INCORPORATION) RULES, 2014

AND

IN THE MATTER OF **M/s REEL INDIA SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED** (FORMERLY KNOWN AS "LAROX INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED") (HEREINAFTER THE COMPANY), HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT C/O ABACUS ACCOUNTING PRIVATE LIMITED NO.8, 2ND MAIN, 9TH CROSS, INDIRANAGAR FIRST STAGE, BANGALORE, KARNATAKA, INDIA, 560038

.... Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the Company proposes to make an application to the Central Government under Section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting held on **September 28, 2023** to enable the Company to change its registered office from **"The State of Karnataka" to "The State of West Bengal".**

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the Company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint former cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South East Region 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhawan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad, Telangana -500068, within 14 (Fourteen) days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant Company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

C/O Abacus Accounting Private Limited No.8, 2nd Main, 9th Cross, Indiranagar First Stage, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 560038.

For and on behalf of the Petitioner:
M/s REEL INDIA SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
(formerly known as LAROX INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED)

Date: 12/04/2024
Place: Bangalore

Saurav Ganguli, (Director) DIN: 09697151
Add: S/O Samir Kumar Ganguli, Chandrani Plot 11 and 12, SD Park, Rajpur Sonarpur (M), Narendrapur, South 24, Parganas, West Bengal, India 700103

IDBI BANK

Mission Road Branch : Retail Recovery, 3rd Floor, No. 58 IDBI House, Mission Road, Bengaluru – 560027. Ph 080-61451322/24/25/26
CIN:L65190MH2004GOI148838 Email:- recovery.bengaluru@idbi.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Sale Through E-Auction Only)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to IDBI Bank Limited (Secured Creditor), the constructive/Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of IDBI Bank Limited (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is on **15th May 2024,** for recovery of amount due to IDBI Bank Limited (Secured Creditor) for the below mentioned Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagors.

Date and Time of Auction: 15 th May 2024 from **10:00 AM** to **1.00 PM**
Last date of online submission of Bid: 13 th May 2024 before **04:00 PM.**
EMD Payment to be made into IDBI A/c No: 00834915010026; IFSC CODE: IBKL0000008 with relevant Bid Documents to reach us on or before **13 th May 2024** before 04:00 PM to IDBI Bank Limited, Retail Recovery, 3rd Floor, No.58, IDBI House, Mission Road, Bengaluru-560027.

(1) Name & Address of the Borrowers: Smt. Guhapriya, The Proprietrix M/s. Kavi Poultrie No.26, 1st Cross, Sindhi Colony, J.C Road, Bengaluru - 560027
Demand Notice: 27.11.2023
Possession Notice: 22.02.2024
Loan Outstanding Amount: Rs.11,58,68,781.03 (Rupees Eleven Crs Fifty Eight Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty One and paisa Three Only) **as on 01/11/2023** together with further interest and charges thereon with effect from **02-11-2023.**
Property details: All that piece and parcels of Converted Land and along with Building land bearing Survey no. 27 measuring 3.00 acres, situated at Deganhalli village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala taluq, Bangalore Rural district together all the structures thereon and bounded as follows- On or towards the North: Road On or towards the South: Land of A Govinda Raju On or towards the East: Land of A Govinda Raju On or towards the West: Road Together with all the buildings and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.
Reserve Price: Rs. 10,44,30,000/- (Rupees Ten Crore Forty Four Lakh Thirty Thousand Only)
EMD: Rs. 1,04,43,000/- (Rupees One Crore Four Lakh Forty Three Thousand Only)
Minimum Bid increment: Rs.5,00,000/- (Rupees Five lakh Only).
Date and Time of Auction: 15th May 2024 from 10:00 AM to 1.00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer Website of **IDBI Bank Ltd i.e. https://www.idbibank.in/e- auction.asp.** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s.4 Closure at the web portals (www.foreclosureindia.com & www.bankauctions.in). E-Auction Tender Document containing online E-Auction bid cum declaration form, Price Confirmation Letter, Detailed Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in website **(www.foreclosureindia.com &; www.bankauctions.in)** or for any other assistance email to info@bankauctions.in, Contact No's:+91-8142000061/62/64. Banks Contact Numbers: - **1. Vageesha Javali, 9845806114, 080 - 4559608 2. Vithal Koteswara Rao, M - 9490122141, 080-45359607. Email Id:recovery.bangalore@idbi.co.in.** If the bid placed in the last 5 minutes before the closing of E-auction the bidding time will get auto extended by 5 minutes. The Authorised Officer has absolute right to accept or reject the tender or bid, any or all the offers and has right to cancel or adjourn or postpone the auction without assigning any reason and also to modify any terms and conditions of this sale, without any prior notice.
The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 12.04.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer
IDBI Bank Limited

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD

(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600),
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/39/2023 Date : 09.04.2024

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited for the procurement of Recombinant Anti Haemophilic Factor VIII for the year 2023-2024 from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Item Name	No. of Items
1.	KMSCL/ED/HAEM/RT/2024/006 dtd.09.04.2024	Recombinant Anti Haemophilic Factor VIII 250 IU & 500 IU	2

Schedule of dates

	Date	Time
Last date of online uploading of tenders	02.05.2024	Up to 05.00pm.
Date of technical bid opening	06.05.2024	11.00 am. onwards

Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.**

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

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JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS "** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 08.04.2024	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last date TIME & Place for submission of Bid
1	31839440000180	1) Mr. Vishwanath C, Prop. M/s. Susheela Enterprises, 2) Mrs. Sushilamma C	27.11.2023	27.03.2024	Rs.16,57,687.34 (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Seven and Thirty Four Paisa Only)	24.04.2024 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.21,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Only)	Rs.2,10,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Ten Thousand Only)	14.05.2024 @ 02:00 PM	13.05.2024, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing portion of Site No.10, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 25 feet and portion of Site No.11, measuring East to West:40 feet, North to South: 10 feet, in all measuring East to West: 40 feet, North to South: 35 feet, totally measuring 1400 sq.feet, which forms common boundary, formed out of Converted Sy.No.96, of Kaggalipura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, converted for non-agricultural residential purposes as per the orders of the Deputy Commissioner, vide their orders No.BDS.ALN.SR(S): 528/2004-05, dated 21-12-2004 and **Bounded on the: East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Portion of Site No.10, **South by:** Remaining portion of Site No.11.									
2	34019630000436 & 34019410000465	1) Mr. Shashi Kumar D, Also at: M/s. Manjunath Agencies, 2) Mr. Maranna D, Also at: M/s. Maf Private Ltd., 3) Mrs. Mangala D	30.10.2023	03.04.2024	Rs.5,93,054.00 (Rupees Five Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Fifty Four Only)	24.04.2024 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.4,68,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Only)	Rs.46,800/- (Rupees Forty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Only)	14.05.2024 @ 02:00 PM	13.05.2024, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.12, Katha No.146/12, E-Katha No.15030700102700175, situated at Gandhi Village, Honasandra Dakale, Yentaganahalli Grama Panchyath Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and **Bounded on the: East by:** Road, **West by:** Private Property, **North by:** Site No.11 & **South by:** Site No.13. Measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet in all measuring 1200 Sq.feet.									

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'.** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portal **https://bankauctions.in** & **www.foreclosureindia.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. M Srinivasulru Contact Number: 8142000809. Email id: info@bankauctions.in/ srinivas@bankauctions.in.**

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob No.9590858249), Mr. Umesh (Mob No.8050149617) & Mrs. Syeda (Mob No.7400445147).** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 12.04.2024, Place: Bangalore & Bangalore Rural **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

SRI LAKSHMI MAHILA SAHAKARA BANK NIYAMITHA

"Lakshmi Sadana", No.3,4, East Anjaneya Temple Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004, Ph: 080 26614794

POSSESSION NOTICE (Under Rule 8(1)) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Sri Lakshmi Mahila Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, having its Head office at Gandhi Bazaar, Bangalore-560004, being the secured creditor under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated:**05.02.2024** calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors to repay the amounts mentioned against their names within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice:

Sl.No.	A/c No.	Name of the Borrower	Name of the Guarantors	Outstanding
01	SPL 10438	**Smt Uma Devi P** W/o Sri Purushotham, No.16, Pipeline Road, 3rd Cross, Near Yellamma Temple, Ejipura, Viveknagar, Bangalore-560047	**1.Sri Mahendra P** S/o Late Murushotham No.16, Pipeline Road, 3rd Cross, Near Yellamma Temple, Ejipura, Viveknagar, Bangalore-560047. **2.Smt Nivetha S** W/o Sri Mahendra PNo.16, Pipeline Road,3rd Cross, Near Yellamma Temple, Ejipura, Viveknagar, Bangalore-560047	**Rs.25,49,903.00** as on 06.04.2024 with further interest and other charges
02	SPL 10439	**Sri Mahendra P** S/o Late Murushotham, No.16, Pipeline Road, 3rd Cross, Near Yellamma Temple, Ejipura,Viveknagar, Bangalore-560047	1.**Smt Uma Devi P** W/o Sri Purushotham, No.16, Pipeline Road, 3rd Cross, Near Yellamma Temple, Ejipura, Viveknagar, Bangalore-560047 **2.Smt Nivetha S** W/o Sri Mahendra PNo.16, Pipeline Road,3rd Cross, Near Yellamma Temple, Ejipura, Viveknagar, Bangalore-560047	**Rs.19,88,135.00** as on 06.04.2024 with further interest and other charges
		TOTAL		**Rs.45,38,038.00**

The above Borrowers/Guarantors have failed to repay the balance outstanding liability, notice is hereby given to them and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read Rule 8 of the said rules on this day of **08.04.2024.**

The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the SRI LAKSHMI MAHILA SAHAKARA BANK NIYAMITHA, Gandhi Bazaar, Bangalore-560004 for the total outstanding liability of Rs.45,38,038-00 only with further interest accrued thereon and other charges. The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing immovable property Northern portion of site No.09, Katha No.33/1, New Municipal No.16 (PID No. 68-175-40) situated at pipeline Road, Ejipura, Bangalore measuring East to West 39 + 40/2 ft and North to South 15+ 14/2 ft and bounded on : East by 15 ft Road, West by Sri Krishnappa's Property, North by Site No.10, South by Smt D Vijayalakshmi's property and remaining portion of site No.9.

Date: 08.04.2024
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Sri Lakshmi Mahila Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Bangalore

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • FRIDAY • APRIL 12, 2024 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 40 • LATE CITY EDITION

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APPLE WARNS OF SOPHISTICATED SPYWARE ATTACKS ON IPHONE USERS

The US firm has warned its users in India and 91 other countries of a "mercenary spyware attack" targeting a select few influential individuals

POLITICIANS, DIPLOMATS, SCRIBES TARGETED

In its latest alert, Apple has dropped the term 'state-sponsored' it used to describe such malware attacks in the past. The latest notification has also come at a time when around 60 countries, including India, are in election mode. The targets are usually politicians, diplomats, activists and senior journalists. Apple said these attacks are very hard to detect | P14

ENABLE 'LOCKDOWN MODE' TO SECURE PHONE

- Apple has recommended the notified users to enable the 'lockdown' mode, which offers extreme protection but disables certain features
- According to a 2023 survey by cyber security firm Check Point, 49% of global organisations are unable to detect a breach on employee-owned devices. The threat actors execute malicious codes and take control of devices, it said

2021

WHEN APPLE STARTED SENDING OUT ALERTS TO ITS USERS ABOUT SECURITY BREACHES

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Decks cleared for ED to take over Herald assets

PMLA adjudicating authority upholds 2023 order to attach properties worth ₹751.90 cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN a big blow to the Congress, the decks have just been cleared for the Enforcement Directorate to take possession of assets worth ₹751.90 crore belonging to the party-owned Associated Journal Ltd (AJL) and Young Indian. For, the PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) Adjudicating Authority has upheld the provisional attachment order issued last year in connection with a money laundering probe against AJL.

The ED had provisionally attached these properties last year. It had also interrogated several individuals, including Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, in connection with the case. The two Congress leaders together held 76% of shares in Young India, the holding company of AJL, which publishes *The National Herald* newspaper.

According to the ED, the AJL had to repay a loan of ₹90.21 crore to AICC, which, however, treated the said loan as non-recoverable and sold it for a mere ₹50 lakh to Young Indian. In its order, the adjudicating authority said it believes the movable assets and equity shares attached by the ED are proceeds of crime.

The ED had initiated the money-laundering probe following a process initiated by the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, which took cognisance of a private complaint against irregularities in the affairs of *National Herald*.

The court had held that seven accused persons and entities, including Young Indian, prima facie committed offences of criminal breach of trust under various IPC sections, including cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property, dishonest misappropriation of property and criminal conspiracy.

The ED probe revealed AJL is in possession of proceeds of crime in the form of properties in many cities worth ₹661.69 crore and Young Indian ₹90.21 crore in the form of investment in equity shares of AJL.

PRIME PROPERTIES

The assets to be taken into possession by the Enforcement Directorate include the Herald House at ITO in New Delhi, land as well as buildings in Mumbai, Lucknow and some other prime location

A BLAZING EID

A young devotee holds an umbrella during special Ramzan prayers at Quddus Saheb Eidgah in Bengaluru on Thursday | ALLEN EGENUSE J

FIREBRAND ANNAMALAI'S DUEL IN COIMBATORE IS TN HEAD-TURNER

S MANNAR MANNAN @ Coimbatore

AS the summer peaks, the battlefield in Coimbatore Lok Sabha constituency sparkles in an unfamiliar glow. There are two reasons. For one, BJP's Tamil Nadu state president, K Annamalai, an IPS officer-turned-politician, has entered the poll fray. Second, the DMK took over the constituency from CPM after a gap of a decade and fielded a soft-spoken Ganapathy P Rajkumar, former Mayor of Coimbatore Corporation, with the sole aim of trouncing the BJP with all its might.

SHOWTIME FOR GLADIATORS

The fact that in 2019, CPM's P R Natarajan romped home with over 1.79 lakh votes may portray the constituency as a hopeless trek for any debutant. But in the 2021 assembly elections, it changed colour from tip to toe in favour of AIADMK in the five segments under this LS constituency. Even the victory of the BJP's Vanathi Srinivasan from Coimbatore South — the sixth Assembly seat — after a three-cornered contest in which she handed actor-turned-neta Kamal Haasan a drubbing, could be attributed to the alliance with the AIADMK.

The firebrand Annamalai, initially reluctant to enter the Lok Sabha race, later fell in line with the party high command's decision. Having previously lost to the DMK in the Aravakurichi assembly seat in 2021 by 24,816 votes, he is leaving no stone unturned by touring every nook and cranny of the constituency amidst his busy schedule of campaigning for candidates of the BJP and its allies across the state. He is seen as a fearless, corruption-free leader by the youth and people who are looking for an alternative for the two Dravidian parties. But will it be enough to cross the line?

ILLUSTRATION: MANDAR PARDIKAR

While the BJP eyes the support of a sizable North Indian population and votes from Hindu outfits, the DMK hopes to lap up minority votes and the support of allies like the CPI and CPM, which hold sway over the working class. On the other hand, the AIADMK enjoys a traditional vote bank. While Singai G Ramachandran, AIADMK's IT wing president, is banking on party strongman S P Velumani and five MLAs, the DMK will definitely miss the presence of jailed ex-minister V Senthil Balaji, who played a vital role in the party's victory in the local body polls in the Kongu belt. CONTINUED ON: P7

NEW GUIDELINES

Flats can use 50% of treated water, sell rest

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government has formulated guidelines for use of treated water in view of the water crisis in Bengaluru and other parts of the state.

It has made it mandatory for residential complexes to use at least 50% of the treated water and the rest for commercial purposes. A gazette notification in this regard was published on April 3.

Though the authorities promoted treatment of wastewater aggressively, there has never been any clarity on the manner of using the treated water. In February, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced on the floor of the House that the government would soon formulate guidelines on use of treated water.

Rainwater harvesting expert S Vishwanath welcomed the government move. "Many apartments have surplus treated water and they do not know what to do with it. They simply dispose of it (into the stormwater drains). This can now be solved as they are permitted to sell up to 50% of treated water. That is, if they do not have a demand for internal use. It has the potential now to create a market for treated water." P4

FINMIN'S REMARKS

K'TAKA CONG NETAS SLAM FM NIRMALA

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Congress leaders have slammed Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for her remarks that Congress has been reduced to a fringe party and terming the argument that states contributing more to the tax pool are getting only a fraction of that in return from the Centre as "separatist kinds of arguments".

"I think Sitharaman is unaware of the pathetic state of affairs of her party in the south where it is beyond the fringe. If she turns the pages of recent history, she will learn that nowhere the party has been able to get a proper mandate, except in a couple of states where there is only a manufactured mandate, but not won democratically. Maharashtra being a classic case and previously Karnataka," RDPR Minister **Priyank Kharge** told TNIE.

He was responding to Sitharaman's remarks in an exclusive interview with TNIE. He suggested to her that southern states are not seeking funds proportionately (the tax paid to the central pool), but questioned the disproportionate amount going to other states. "For every Rs 100 tax paid, Rs 922 goes to Bihar, Rs 333 to UP and for us only Rs 13. What we are requesting is that devolution should be done a little more fairly because we are the ones who are creating infrastructure, employment and getting people out of poverty. We are willing to share with other states in a federal structure." CONTINUED ON: P7

WITH THIS ISSUE

CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE
INDULGE
40 PAGES, INCLUDING 24 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

EXPRESS READ

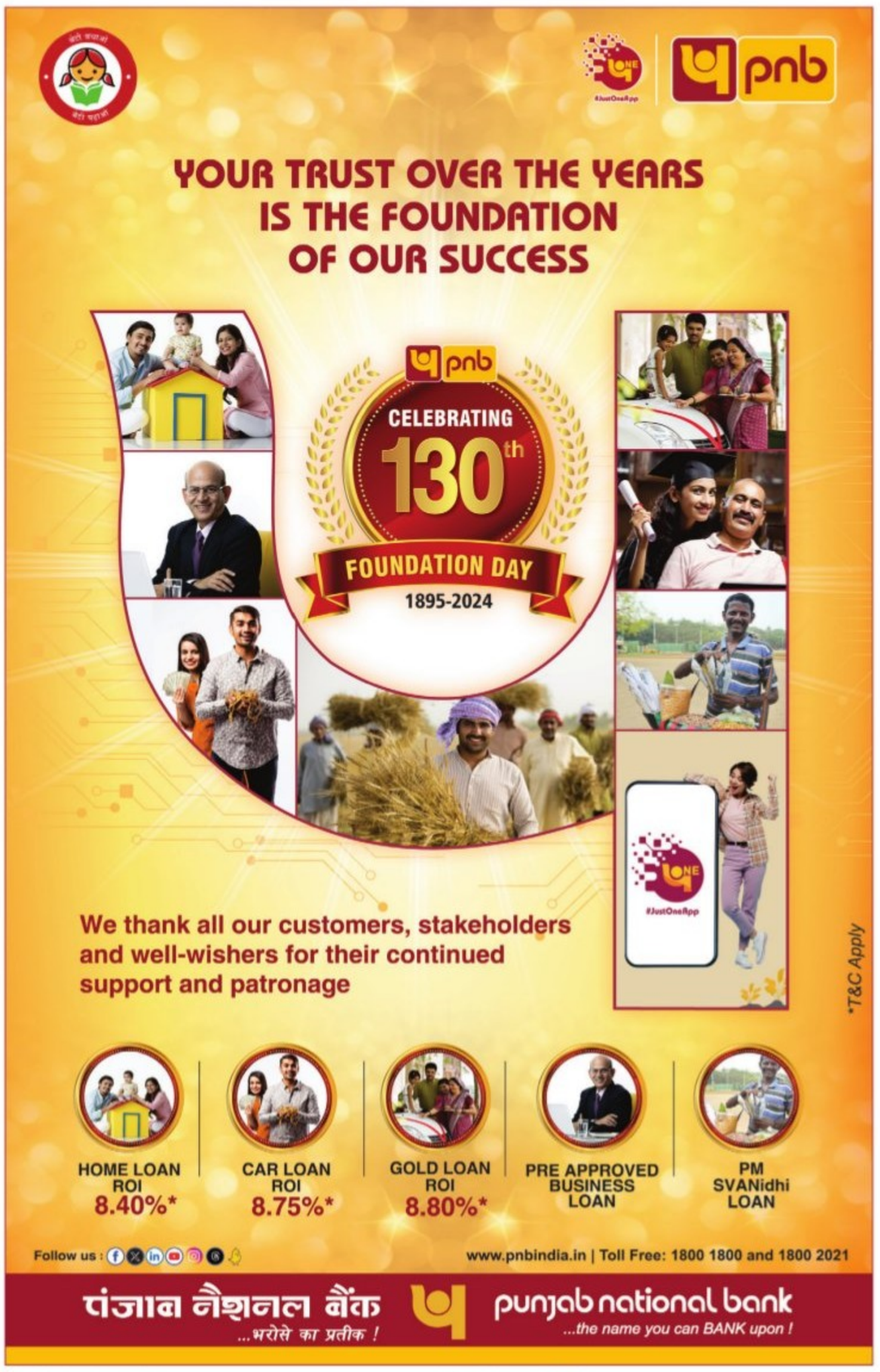
SBI refuses to disclose EB details under RTI Act

New Delhi: The SBI refused to disclose under the RTI Act details of the electoral bonds furnished to the Election Commission, claiming that it is personal information held in a fiduciary capacity, even though records are in the public domain.

EXPRESS Dialogues

THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN THE COUNTRY, THIS IS MY FIRM BELIEF, SAYS DK SHIVAKUMAR

INTERVIEW: P6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MAIN SEGMENT

'All We Imagine as Light' first Indian film in 30 years to compete at Cannes

PRASHANTH VALLAVAN

MUMBAI-BASED filmmaker Payal Kapadia's *All We Imagine As Light* is all set to premiere at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, where it will compete for the prestigious Palme d'Or award. The announcement was made on Thursday by Iris Knobloch, president of the Cannes Festival, along with Thierry Fremaux, General Delegate. This year's Cannes Film Festival is scheduled to be held from May 14 to 25.

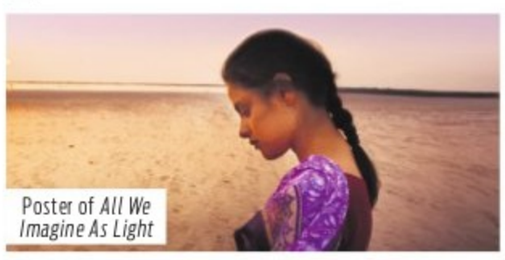
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

The last Indian film to enter the competition section at Cannes is the 1994 Malayalam film *Swaham*, by director Shaji N Karun, which lost to Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*.

All We Imagine As Light is an Indo-French co-production, and revolves around two nurses from Kerala who work at a nursing home in Mumbai. The film stars Kani Kusruti (*Biriyaani*) and Divya Prabha (*Ariyippu*). British-Indian filmmaker Sandhya Suri's *Santosh* will also be screened at the Cannes this year — under the Un Certain Regard section.

Payal Kapadia's *A Night of Knowing Nothing* won the Oeil d'Or (Golden Eye) for Best Documentary at the Cannes Film Festival in 2021. The film revolves around a college student who writes a letter to her estranged boyfriend. In 2017, the director's *Afternoon Clouds*, was the only film to be selected for screening at Cannes.

Born and raised in Mumbai, Kapadia went on to study film direction at Film and Television Institute of India in Pune.



Poster of *All We Imagine As Light*

All We Imagine As Light will compete against 19 other films, including *Megalopolis* by Francis Ford Coppola, *The Apprentice* by Ali Abbasi, *Kind of Kindness* by Yorgos Lanthimos, and *The Shrouds* by David Cronenberg. Director Greta Gerwig, best known for films like *Lady Bird* and *Barbie*, will lead the juries of the competition section. Veteran filmmaker George Lucas will receive an Honorary Palme d'Or this year.

Top award

Neecha Nagar is the only Indian film ever to win the top honour at Cannes back in 1946. At the time, the award was known as Grand Prix du Festival International du Film

BWSSB demands ₹2.3 cr for Cauvery water, flat owners to boycott polls

No connection charges being levied on layouts, say residents of apartment in JP Nagar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

ALLEGING that the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has given Cauvery water connection to layouts without levying any infrastructural charges, while simultaneously demanding Rs 2.3 crore to provide the same connection to Royal Lakefront Residents (RLF) of JP Nagar 8th Phase, apartment dwellers have decided not to cast their votes in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Sharing their problem in a letter addressed to the Chief Electoral Officer on April 10, the Royal Lakefront Residency Residents' and Site Owners Welfare Association stated that

The banner put up by residents, threatening to boycott polls| EXPRESS

they are going to boycott the upcoming LS elections, registering their protest against the alleged apathy of the water board.

"BWSSB provides residents of revenue and 'B-Khata' layouts without levying any infrastructure charges, including the places around Royal Lakefront Residency. RLF layout also has common infrastructure like parks which are used by people around us. We came to know that the BDA-approved layouts---BCMC Layout in Raghuvanahalli, Narayana Nagar Phase 1 and Phase 2, Doddakallasandra, Balaji Layout, Vajarahalli, BDA employees layout, Doddakallasandra and BCC HS Layout, Vajarahalli are enjoying the BWSSB water and underground drainage (UGD) connections to their layout without paying any infrastructure charges and by paying only connection charges to individual houses," the association stated in the letter.

We have a UGD facility and community water supply through borewell water services in the locality. However, the borewell has gone dry and we are depending on private water tankers paying high rates, the association members said.

The residents said they have been trying to get a BWSSB water connection for the last 20 years. RLF residents through our association have been working with BWSSB for Cauvery water connection and we were told to pay, Rs 1.3 crore for Phase 1, and Rs 1.04 crore for Phase 2, they said. They complained that they were neglected by the BWSSB authorities for not considering their requests and appealed to provide a water connection. The residents said they have decided not only to boycott the upcoming LS polls but also subsequent elections in future.

VIBRANCE GONE

Stinky, neglected; filth, garbage strewn in KR Market

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE once vibrant KR Market, known widely for its hustle-bustle, fresh produce, large quantities of colourful flowers, fruits and vegetables-- it now lies beneath heaps of garbage, chaotic loading and unloading, generation and management of fruits and meat waste, and broken manholes. The largest flower market in the city, which draws thousands of tourists, finds its vendors, especially women, grappling with challenges including accessing hygienic restroom facilities. Describing the condition of the washrooms, Poorna, a vendor says, "They are inadequate, unsanitary, and neglected." The washrooms either have broken or dry taps, and faulty latches. They are cleaned only once every three days. Many of us, female vendors, have been affected with UTIs, yet our concerns go unnoticed. We are simply expected to smile when visitors arrive early in the morning with their cameras, she lamented.

Lakshmi, another vendor said, "We come here from Hosur between 4 am to 4.30 am every day. What we daily encounter first is meat waste stacked on top of fruit and vegetable waste, emitting a foul odour that stays until the BBMP waste trucks arrive." Even during COVID-19, when the market was with no crowds, there was an opportunity to implement a waste management system and improve the condition of the washrooms. However, no changes were made."

Further, describing the sorry state of the market, she added that she has been working here for approximately 15 years and the fact that nothing will change is not surprising. "We have lost hopes, but we continue because this is our livelihood."

Jameel, a meat seller said that meat waste is often left within the market premises and remains there for a day or two before being discarded. The garbage clearance is infrequent, leaving it unattended and susceptible to disease outbreaks.

Zubair, another meat seller said that many sellers have arranged small autos to dispose of the waste, as it is not cleared regularly. With waste generated daily, we cannot rely on BBMP to clear it, nor do we have any hopes left. We must continue running our businesses to earn a livelihood. Where else can people like me go? questioned the 68-year-old, who has been running the shop for over 10 years.

Centenary of Raja Ramanna celebrated

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A panel discussion on the 'The relevance of traditional wisdom in modern science' was organised recently at the JRD Tata Auditorium, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) as part of the centenary celebrations of distinguished scientist, ex-chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), founding director of NIAS and Padma awardee, Dr Raja Ramanna.

Director, NIAS, Shailesh Nayak is the chief patron of the birth centenary celebrations at the institute. Ramanna had a deep interest in ancient Indian, Buddhist philosophy and logic and quantum theory.

Noted theoretical physicist, visiting professor and senior Homi Bhabha Fellow, NIAS, Dr Sisir Roy hosted the event, which saw an informed discussion by panelists - Drs HR Nagendra - founder of Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana and a well-known Yoga guru, well-known Buddhist scholar, Ngawang Samten, former vice-chancellor of Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University, Sudha Seshayyan and noted neurosurgeon Thimappa Hegde.

Roy discussed the thoughts and ideas of Ramanna in his numerous publications and autobiography - 'Years of Pilgrimage - An Autobiography' and spoke about the relevance of ancient Indian logic in modern science. He also underscored the universality of music as envisaged by Ramanna in his lecture.

Seshayyan emphasised the importance of traditional wisdom in modern science and took the audience through various pieces of evidence from Rig Veda and other ancient texts.

FKCCI asks KERC to implement ToD scheme

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) has asked the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) to issue directives for prompt implementation of the Time of Day (ToD) scheme as per the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Amendment Rules, 2023.

It appealed for the timely implementation of reduced tariffs for consumers which was to be effective from April 1, 2024. In the letter, FKCCI emphasised on the importance of introducing ToD for industrial and commercial consumers having maximum demand of over 10KW shall be made effective from April 1, 2024, highlighting its potential to optimise energy usage and tariff during the peak period of the day shall not be less than 1.20 times the normal tariff and for other consumers, it shall not be less than 1.10 times the normal tariff. In the letter the FKCCI also requested the determination of solar hours and the corresponding reduction in tariff which shall be at least 20% less than the normal tariff for that category of consumers. Lahoti said the KERC should also provide guidance for consumers to opt for ToD metres to ensure the timely implementation of the ToD scheme and incentivise energy consumption patterns.

The FKCCI sought clarity on the applicability of Fuel and Power Purchase Cost Adjustment (FPPCA) during solar and non-solar hours.

WEAVING A LIVELIHOOD

A woman weaves bamboo baskets on KR Road in Bengaluru on Thursday | EXPRESS

Many flats treat water but dispose it of, says expert

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

RAINWATER harvesting expert S Vishwanath welcomed the government move. "Many apartments have surplus treated water and they do not know what to do with it. They simply dispose of it (into the stormwater drains). This can now be solved as they are permitted to sell up to 50% of treated water. That is, if they do not have a demand for internal use. It has the potential now to create a market for treated water."

It is a good move, but it should be monitored carefully, he said. "The government should be dynamic in changing the law if needed. It took a long time to change the old law. Everyone knew that they could not fully use the surplus treated water in their complexes. It should be monitored and tweaked if required and made workable," Vishwanath said.

Bengaluru-based advocate Prashant Mirle, who specialises in real estate-related aspects, said, "It has been designed to tackle the city's water scarcity by promoting the efficient use of treated water in line with the Pollution Control Board's norms." The notification states that treated water can be used for construction, industrial, horticulture and other purposes. It strictly forbids use of treated water for drinking, pharmaceutical or food processing purposes. The approach not only aims at conserving water resources, but also at fostering a community-wide effort towards sustainable urban living. "

BRINGING WOMEN TO THE DRIVER'S SEAT

PURAN CHOUDHARY
@Bengaluru

RECOGNISING the demand for more female drivers and providing women with new entrepreneurial skills, an association has been training underprivileged women from marginalised sections to drive a car and leverage these skills to become self-reliant. The programme that was commenced by the Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Karnataka (AWAKE) will be providing training sessions for a month, while hand-holding women to pursue their choice of entrepreneurship. The programme will soon be expanded to other districts.

"Our objective is to increase the number of women drivers on the streets, with an increasing demand for it from companies. This will also allow women to have agency in their lives while cultivating an entrepreneurial spirit," said Asha NR, president. She added that this unique initiative is a win-win for both parties as companies want to hire exclusive female drivers for some of their employees and the women getting professionally trained, will help them have flexible work hours and an opportunity to thrive in their business.

The latest batch of around 40 women will begin training from Monday onwards and receive one hour of hands-on experience and two hours of stimulation of the wheel every day. On Saturdays, the attendees will be exposed to motivational and business development sessions. "This will be our third batch, all the women are between the age group 19-40 years. After the completion of training, we will also provide them with jobs. Along with this women will be guided on how to obtain small loan facilities through banks based on annual income, how to apply to existing entrepreneurship programmes and other subsidies applicable. We have tied up with all nationalised banks and invited them for special sessions," said Sadashiva S, Head of Training Coordination, AWAKE. The programme is funded by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in partnership with AWAKE.

Driving classes will be held at different locations according to the women who have enrolled and trained by Mandovi Motors, a driving school. The organisation will also help the females acquire a driving license. With the initiative Asha hopes that more women from troubled backgrounds can be self-sustaining however she added that there needs to be a serious behavioural and mindset change in the public and customers who rarely see women driving commercial vehicles such as taxis or autos.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

12TH April : My planet of the day is Mercury, the ruler of choice. Whenever this planet raises its head, as it does today, we are encouraged to exercise our free will, face up to decisions which we have delayed for far too long and communicate with people whom we have ignored when we should have talked to them.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Fortunately, the financial outlook is more than promising, and what takes place now is bound to make you feel more prosperous in the long run. Next month will bring increased expenses, so enjoy yourself while you can. You have everything to gain from a generous gesture, by the way.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
'Seek and you will find', would seem to be a suitable motto at the moment. The whole point about this saying is that the quest for truth is an inner one: the answers lie with you and you alone. Today's lunar alignments are very busy, so take the opportunity to get ahead.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
If you have the courage to live according to your principles, you will gain enormously in the long run. At work you should therefore make a point of putting other people's interests on a par with your own. A selfless attitude will earn respect and win allies.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
It's definitely time to stop dithering, banish any traces of self-doubt, and swing into action. Use every ounce of your charm and guile to promote your ambitions, and realise that you must now aim only for what you truly, deeply and genuinely desire.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
It would be a shame if you were to be bogged down in petty arguments over who does what, or whose rights are being infringed, especially as this is in its essence such an open-hearted and adventurous period. There's bound to be the odd muddle at home, but don't let such irritations distract you from higher matters.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You probably feel a little as if you have been cut adrift and left to fend for yourself. That could be good, for if you have been left out, you'll have more time to quietly reconsider your future in preparation for imminent improvements. There are some extraordinary planetary patterns ahead, by the way, so don't imagine there are no more changes to come.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You can sometimes seem to be aloof and a law unto yourself, but if you can possibly make other people see that you really do care, you will break down many barriers and open the way to a great new relationship. After all, good friends are worth far more to you than any amount of cash.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You should be wary of people with big egos. It's not that somebody is likely to be a problem now, but that they might be getting more difficult in a week or so. Be cautious and play it by ear. As soon as you sense that trouble lies ahead, go out of your way to settle the underlying problems.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Certain planets are likely to confuse personal issues, while others are urging you to act without thinking. It is, however, an excellent moment to put in train those unusual suggestions which you've kept to yourself until now. You never know - partners might actually be impressed!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
There's a great deal happening in your chart to do with technology, so aside from all the emotional and psychological ramifications of current transits, now is the time to stock up with the latest gadgets! A new gadget could even have a beneficial effect on your social life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Fantastic planetary aspects are now fading, but they do retain some of their power to bring about lively meet-ings, unusual decisions and intriguing choices. Today you must begin to take the initiative rather than waiting for others to make up their minds.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
By the end of the month you may look back on this period as one in which you finally stood up for yourself. It's important to take well-calculated risks, even if this does mean that you have to grow a thicker skin. It's fine to be sensitive, but not self-obsessed.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle ⬇

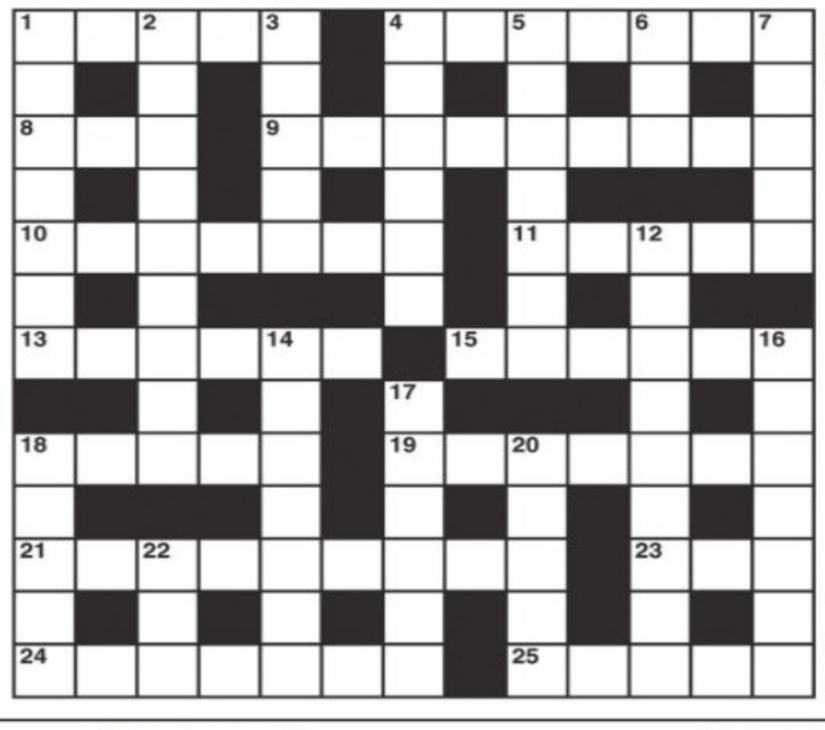
	3	9						2
				3			9	
4					6		1	
1				5	8			9
		5				1		
7			1	2				3
	4		8					7
	7			1				
5						6	3	

3	1	9	6	5	2	7	4	8
5	8	7	1	9	4	2	3	6
6	2	4	3	8	7	1	5	9
8	9	6	7	3	1	4	2	5
7	3	2	5	4	9	6	8	1
4	5	1	8	2	6	3	9	7
2	7	3	9	1	8	5	6	4
1	4	8	2	6	5	9	7	3
9	6	5	4	7	3	8	1	2

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Lifting the foot (5)
4 Where to find the greatest urbanity in Scotland (7)
8 Standard spare part (3)
9 Tributes made to labour force (5,4)
10 It is a blemish on the most radiant of faces (7)
11 Offenders may be found in these clubs (5)
13 Bird taken by cunning without haste (6)
15 Devious way to avoid overcrowding in cities (6)
18 It's South Africa in the sun for her (5)
19 Panda does a turn in cabaret (7)
21 You'll know when you've got it (9)
23 We object to point of employment (3)
24 Present-day conclusion? (7)
25 Louts break up the plant (5)

DOWN
1 Key members of the office staff (7)
2 To slip up 1-0 to us is wrong (9)
3 Be successful with a superior suit (5)
4 It may be pronounced with conviction (6)
5 Night in France breaks into any kind of income (7)
6 Hunters killed it by spear or gun perhaps (3)
7 Insects more dangerous when beheaded (5)
12 Because you'd prefer to pay later? (2,7)
14 Catching and getting in fish (7)
16 They won't stand for being models (7)
17 A player - one in new boots (6)
18 The fall is general in a way (5)
20 Abolish article from a yearbook (5)
22 Part of the furnishings in a tearoom (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 New Zealand, 8 Felon, 9 Abstain, 10 Replace, 11 Alley, 12 Trench, 14 Teacup, 17 Libya, 19 Harpist, 21 Spartan, 22 Weedy, 23 Luckybreak

Down: 2 Eclipse, 3 Zenda, 4 Amazed, 5 Assuage, 6 Drawl, 7 In sympathy, 8 First-class, 13 Chaotic, 15 Chimera, 16 Shanty, 18 Brawl, 20 Rower.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

LIYHL

VODIE

TOSOHM

GEDERE

I'm glad I took the day off! This has been great.
I love seeing the sights together. Happy Valentine's Day!
WHILE WALKING NEAR LONDON'S FAMOUS CLOCK TOWER ON VALENTINE'S DAY, THEY HAD A ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____ _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SORRY DRANK COMMIT SWEATY
Answer: The student handed in her spelling test and said, "I didn't do well..." — MARK MY WORDS

A man in Kukkundoor, Karkala, tried to poison his wife and two children, before attempting suicide on Tuesday. Prabhakar Acharya was reportedly unable to repay loans, which prompted him to take the extreme step. He served his wife and children juice laced with poison, also consumed it himself. However, all four survived

Silk farmer assaulted in Bidadi, BJP blames Congress for attack

Victim's brother says attack was not political

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A 34-year-old sericulturist was hospitalised with severe head injuries, after reportedly being attacked by two men with a wooden plank at Kempashetty Doddi in Bidadi police limits on Tuesday. The victim, CS Naveen, is a sericulturist in Bidadi, and is also said to be a BJP worker.

The incident took a political turn with the BJP accusing Congress workers of attacking its partymen. BJP state president BY Vijayendra and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka urged the Election Commission to direct the police to act against the Congress leaders allegedly responsible for the attack on the BJP worker in Bidadi, and ensure free and fair elections in the Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha constituency.

> **Congress leaders have become desperate and are attacking BJP-JDS workers in Bengaluru Rural constituency to create fear among the voters**
>
> BY Vijayendra, BJP state president

"Congress leaders have become desperate and are attacking BJP-JDS workers in Bengaluru Rural constituency to create fear among the voters," said Vijayendra. "A BJP worker and silk farmer was assaulted by a Congress worker, but the police have not arrested him," he added.

Ashoka said that as the Congress is sure to taste defeat in Bengaluru Rural, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar and his brother DK Suresh are targeting voters. He demanded action against Congress, which is trying to create an atmosphere of fear.

However, the victim's brother, CS Shivakumar, who filed a complaint, suspected that a monetary dispute could have triggered the fight. He filed a complaint, stating that on Tuesday, he received a call from an acquaintance that Naveen was at one Shekar's residence in Kempashetty Doddi.

CS Shivakumar, along with his father, went to Shekar's residence, where they witnessed the latter and his associate beating Naveen with a wooden plank. The accused even tried to attack Naveen with a knife, but he managed to escape, as his brother and father reached in time and stopped them. After the accused escaped, Naveen was shifted to hospital for treatment.

According to CS Shivakumar, Naveen and Shekar had some financial transactions, and he suspects that a monetary dispute could have triggered the fight. "The complainant has not mentioned any political motive behind the attack. According to preliminary investigations, the attack was over a monetary dispute. If there are allegations about any other motive, it will be probed as well," said an officer.

Drones tested to deliver health samples

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Udupi

The aerial healthcare delivery system tested by MAHE in Udupi

THE Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and MAHE, used a drone to transported oncopathological samples between peripheral and tertiary care hospitals in Udupi district on Wednesday. The first sample was sent from Dr TMA Pai Rotary Hospital, Karkala to Kasturba Hospital, Manipal. Sample testing this drone based health care delivery system, was helpful in assessing feasibility of transferring materials, such as frozen section samples, from remote locations to peripheral hospitals by aerial means.

This service is expected to enhance the healthcare system by enabling surgeons to perform procedures requiring such investigations in rural areas, a press statement from MAHE said.

Dr Rajiv Bahl, secretary, Department of Health Research, Government of India and director general, ICMR, and Dr Atul Goel, director general of Health Services, DGHS, MoHFW, were the chief guests for the inaugural event on Wednesday. Dr MD Venkatesh, V-C, Dr Sharath K Rao, Pro V-C (Health Sciences) MAHE, Manipal, were present.

Dr Rajiv Bahl inaugurated the project and appreciated the innovative approach to healthcare delivery. He highlighted its potential to revolutionise sample transportation and diagnostic services, particularly in underserved rural areas.

Dr Atul Goel emphasised the importance of the project in addressing healthcare disparities and enhancing medical services in rural areas. Dr HS Ballal, Pro Chancellor of MAHE appreciated ICMR's collaborative spirit and emphasised on innovation in healthcare.

Cycle rally to create awareness on voting

BENGALURU: To bring awareness among people to cast their votes in the LS polls, the ECI in association with BBMP organised a cycle rally. District Election Officer and BBMP Chief, Tushar Girinath flagged off the rally from Vidhana Soudha on Thursday. Girinath said, "We have been taking multiple steps to increase the polling percentage in Bengaluru. Along with this cyclothon, we have already held a bikathon and a vintage car rally. Our officials have been visiting colleges to educate first-time voters to cast their votes without fail. Even our election ambassador -- Anup Sridhar -- is creating awareness among the voters."

Smart ICU technology to transform healthcare

ENS @Bengaluru

TO revolutionize healthcare in local community hospitals, Cloudphysician, a healthcare platform that provides critical care via smart technology, developed a Smart-ICU technology. Utilising this platform, hospitals can provide patient care while significantly reducing costs compared to corporate hospitals. The solution also enables ICU specialists to monitor patient health remotely, ensuring top-notch care regardless of location.

Explaining the Smart-ICU, Co-founder, CEO, MD of Cloudphysician, Dhruv Joshi said, "The system integrates RADAR, a Smart-ICU and NICU, allowing remote monitoring and management of patients in real-time. RADAR includes cloud-based software, data analytics, and high-definition video technology. It continuously collects and analyzes patient data to enable immediate interventions. Through this, specialists collaborate with bedside team, offer support, and assist in decision-making, round the clock."

Highlighting the cost reduction compared to traditional methods, Joshi added that high-quality critical care and neonatal care are often expensive. It is accessible only to those with financial means and proximity to high-end centres. However, Smart-ICU is democratizing access to excellence in critical, emergency, and neonatal care. "Now, even centres with limited resources and remote locations can offer world-class care," he added.

"We strictly adhere to obtaining patient consent for virtual care and maintain all patient data in compliance with the country's laws," he said.

Kung fu coach tries to stop fight, attacked by three

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

A Kung fu coach, Ravi M (26), was attacked by three miscreants near Kodathi Gate, when he tried to intervene in their fight. Ravi was on his way to a dinner appointment when he saw the three men fighting, and tried to stop them. Infuriated, the trio attacked Ravi.

Ravi tried to escape, even as the accused attempted to beat him. However, he tripped and fell. One of the accused struck Ravi on his head with a cricket bat, while the other two too started beating him. A Hoysala patrol team arrived on the scene and rushed to save the victim. Seeing the police, the accused fled.

Ravi has been admitted in Kshema Hospital. "Ravi had to get 16 stitches for his head injury, and is still under treatment. The accused are yet to be arrested, and it appears that they were drunk," said an investigating officer. Varthur police have registered a case.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **Mrs. RUHI ANJUM**, W/o. Mr. Nisar Ahmed, aged about 46 years, residing at No.316, 9th Cross, 1st Stage, Pillanna Garden, St. Thomas Town, Bengaluru-560084, intends to purchase the below mentioned schedule property from its owner Sri. A.V. Srinivasalu. If any persons having any objections to purchase the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and claims before the undersigned or my client, along with supporting documents within **15 days** from the date of this publication, and the objection and claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client and not entertained and will proceed to purchase the Schedule property as there are no objections claims and is free from all encumbrance. Later no claims will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No.260, Khatha No.246/88/260, formed in Sy. No.88, situated at Ramakrishna Hegde Nagar, Thanisandra Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring 30 x 50 feet, in all measuring 1500 Square feet, together with old house, presently coming under the limits of BBMP, and bounded on: **East by** : Site No.235, **West by** : Road, **North by** : Site No.261, **South by** : Site No.259.

CHETHAN KUMAR .L, Advocate
DC & DC ASSOCIATES
No.62, 2nd Main, Link Road, behind Govt. Girls High School, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru- 560020.
Mob No.9535327008.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is here by informed to the general public that my client Sri. S.V.Krishna Murthy, S/o.Sri.S. Venkat Naranaiah, & Smt. G.Prema Kumari W/o Sri. S.V. Krishna Murthy are the absolute owners and in possession of schedule property mentioned hereunder, However, my clients have lost the original sale deed document vide document No.KEN-1-06586-2005-06, Book-I, CD No: KEND213, dated:10.06.2005, registered in the office of the sub registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore & Release deed vide document No.BSK-1-00306-2009-10, Book-I, CD No:BSKD39, dated:18.04.2009, registered in the office of the sub registrar, Banashankari, Bangalore, & sale deed vide document No.CMP-1-03411-2014-15, Book-I, CD No: CMPD115, dated:06.08.2014, registered in the office of the sub registrar, Chamrajpet, Bangalore, which were pertains to schedule property.

Therefore, the general public are hereby informed that if any one possess of the aforesaid documents and claiming right, title and interest in respect of the property mentioned in the schedule herein below, will amount to fraud, mis-representation and illegal. If any person wants to file objection with regard to above, they may do so with in 7 days from the date of the publication to the address given below.

If no objections are received within the said period, it will be treated that there are no claims against the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of 2 BHK, Flat No.F-1, New BBMP katha number 1531/139-F-1, in the First Floor, Mesuring 900 Sq.ft of SBA and 307.5 Sq.ft of UDS, along with one covered Car Parking, in the Building Known "S.L.V. PARADISE", constructed in the Property No.139, in Layout formed by Sri Anjaneya Swamy House Building Co-op Society Ltd, of Sy No. 67/2,68/4,69 and 79/3 Chikkalsandra, Sy No.12/3,12/4,12/5 and 12/6 of Arehalli and Sy No.4 & 5 Uttarahalli Village & Hobli, situated at Bangalore, presently comes under the limits of BBMP, and bounded on East by : Site No. 140, West by : Site No.138, North by : Site No. 134 & 133, South by : Road.

A.M.GAJENDRA, Advocate,
No.2, 3rd Cross, 3rd Main, Srinivasanagar, Kathriguppe Main Road, Bangalore-560085.
Ph. No.-9845562465 Dated:10.04.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **SRI. CHAGANTI SRINIVAS** S/o Sri. Bhaskar Rao, aged about 55 years, presently residing at 743, Lake Shore Manor Ct, WILD WOOD, MO-63038, USA, earlier residing at Flat No. G19, Sriveen Towers, 4th Cross, Lakshmi Layout, Munnekolal, Bangalore-560037, has executed registered GPA 08.04.2022 vide document No.BSG-4-00020-2022-23, executed before the office of the Sub Registrar office, Basavanagudi, Bangalore in favour of **SRI. SRINIVASARAO LINGAMANENI** S/o Sri. L.V. Satya Narayana, with respect to the below mentioned "Schedule Property". The said registered GPA has obtained in a fraudulent manner from my client with intention to cheat him and hence my client has cancelled the said registered GPA dated.08.04.2022 under legal Notice dated.12.04.2024 with immediate effect and also initiating the legal process before the court of law. In view of the said circumstances, the general public here by informed to not to transact with the said Sri. Srinivasarao Lingamaneni S/o Sri. L.V. Satya Narayana, in respect of the schedule properties in any manner by way of sale, exchange, gift, lease, tenancy, license, assignment, mortgage, charge, lien, encumbrance, bequest, easement, possession, maintenance, or otherwise. In case anybody deals with the said GPA holder in furtherance of this notice, my client will not be responsible for any such transactions.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM NO.1

All the piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing **Sy.No.522/1, measuring 1 Acre 20 Guntas**, situated at **Anekal Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District** and bounded on:

EAST BY : Land in Sy.No.525/1,
WEST BY : Land in Sy.No.522/2,
NORTH BY : Land in Sy.No.522/4,
SOUTH BY : Chikkanahalli Road.

ITEM NO.2

All the piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing **Sy.No.525/1, measuring 34 Guntas,** situated at **Anekal Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District** and bounded on:

EAST BY : Land in Sy.No.526/1,
WEST BY : Land in Sy.No.522/1 and 522/4,
NORTH BY : Land in Sy.No.525/2,
SOUTH BY : Chikkanahalli Road.

(K.B. NAVEEN KUMAR)
Advocate
No. 46/1, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, Brundavan Hotel Complex, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003.
M : 9591378500, 080-40944648

PUBLIC NOTICE

I here by Give the General Public notice on behalf of my client **Mrs. Lakshmi Sankaramani** Rep. by her GPA Holder Mr. K Sankaramani residing at Flat No. 202, Abhirami enclave, Manjunatha Layout Murugesh Palya Bangalore, has lost original sale deed dated. 11-08-2009 executed by Sri. A Muthu in favor of Sri. S Vijey Kumar registered as document No. 792/2009-10, Book No. 1, C.D No. VRTD46 Registered in the office of Sub registrar, Varthur Bangalore,

If anybody get any information about the said document/in the possession of the same/having any claim/interest in the schedule property may write/contact to the undersigned within 15 days with documentary proof failing which my clients will treat the certified copy of the said document as original and objections received thereafter is not binding upon my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Flat No. 202, second floor, "Abhirami enclave Apartment" having Super Built up area measuring 1008.11 sq ft and undivided share measuring 219.26 sq ft with one car parking in still floor, situated at bearing No. 34 (old No. 34 & 35) Manjunatha Layout Murugesh Palya BBMP Ward No. 73, east to west 90 ft and North to south 46 ft, totally measuring 3915.50 sq ft, PID NO. 73-30-34 and bounded on. **East by** : Private Property No. 7. **West by**: Private Property No. 4.
North by: Private Property. **South by** : Road.

POORNIMA .K.S, Advocate.
2710, 6th Main, 2nd Stage, K.S. Layout, Bangalore-560 078. Mobile No. 9886244736

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is proposed to purchase the property more fully described in the schedule hereunder from **Sri.Narasimhappa Alias Narasimha**, S/o.Late Chikka Muniyappa, **Sri.D.M.Kumara** S/o.Late Chikka Muniyappa and **Sri. Narayanaswamy** S/o.Late Chikka Muniyappa, all are residents of Devanahalli Town, Sri Madagalamma Temple Street, Behind Canara Bank, Devanahalli Town. If any person having any manner of right, title, interest, share or claim whatsoever over the schedule property, may file their objections in writing to the undersigned, within **FIFTEEN DAYS** from the date of this publication, along with documentary proof after that, we treat that, have no claims/objections in respect of the schedule property and proceed to purchase the same.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing **Sy.No.3/21** measuring **1 acre 20 guntas, out of 2 acre 20 guntas,** situated at **Palya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk** and bounded on the:-

East by : Land in Sy.No.39
West by : Land in Sy.No.3/23
North by : Land in Sy.No.3/20
South by : Land bearing new Sy No.3/29 allotted as "C" schedule property in favour of Narasamma, Madevi, D.C.Mala.

Smt. LAKSHMI.S
W/o.Jagannath Singh.M
No.4/A, 2nd Cross, Near SLV Water Tank, Manorayana Palya
R.T.Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032.
Mob No.7760945196

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The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)

TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are Re-invited for the supply of following items.

1) 78252, (2) 78359.

Note: For more details, log on to website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

PRO/AAM(M)/05/2024 **GENERAL MANAGER**

Your Guide to SPICY LIVING
INDULGE
Every Friday with
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Format C-2

Declaration about criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party

(As per the judgment dated 25 th September, 2018 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)
Name of Political Party: JANATA DAL (SECULAR)
*** Name of Election : GENERAL ELECTION TO THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE - 2024**
Name of State/ UT : KARNATAKA

1	2	3	4		5		
Sl. No.	Name of candidate	Name of constituency	(A) Pending criminal cases		(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences		
			Name of Court, case No. & status of the case(s)	Sections of the Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum Punishment imposed
1.	M. MALLESH BABU	KOLAR	Principle Civil Judge (Junior Division) & JMFC COURT, BANGARPETE, KOLAR DIST. CASE NO. 0221/20 18 :: CCNO. 255/19	IPC 1860 (U/s 171H, 149) Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act 1988 (U/s 3,6,7)	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2.	M. MALLESH BABU	KOLAR	1st Addition al Senior Civil Judge And C.J.M. KOLAR CR NO. 0230/23, CCNO. 1212/23	Under Section 171B, 171E, of IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

Format C-2

Declaration about criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party

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1	2	3	4		5		
Sl. No.	Name of candidate	Name of constituency	(A) Pending criminal cases		(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences		
			Name of Court, case No. & status of the case(s)	Sections of the Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum Punishment imposed
1.	H. D. Kumaraswamy	MANDYA	Hon'ble LXXXI Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru, CCH-82 PCR No. 27/2014	Section 204, 405, 406, 465, 468, 471 r/w 120(B) of Indian Penal Code & Section 13(1)(d)(e) of Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 21, 23 r/w 4(1A) of MMRD Act and Section 104, 104(c) of Karnataka Forest Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2.	H. D. Kumaraswamy	MANDYA	Hon'ble LXXXI Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru, CCH-82 Crime No. 16/2014	Section 420, 465, 467, 468 r/w 120(B) and 511 of Indian Penal Code and Section 13(1)(d) of Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 21(2) and 23 of MMRD Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
3.	H. D. Kumaraswamy	MANDYA	Hon'ble LXXXI Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru, CCH-82 Crime No. 27/2015	Section 409, 418, 420, 120(B) r/w 34 of Indian Penal Code and Section 13(1)(c), 13(1)(d), 13(2) of Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 3 and 4 of Karnataka Land (Restriction and Transfer) Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

> Congress seems to have forgotten that the Lok Sabha elections are going on. As Rahul Gandhi's leadership has completely failed, a peculiar situation has arisen where no one (from his party) is ready to take his name
>
> BS Yediyurappa, former chief minister

POLLING DATE
PHASE-2 APRIL 26
PHASE-3 MAY 7

DAYS TO GO
PHASE-2 14
PHASE-3 25

TOTAL SEIZURES
₹292.74 Crore

FIRs BOOKED
1,544

COMPLAINTS ON cVIGIL 21,017
April 12, 2024
Issue of Notification for Phase-3 elections; Issue of Notification for Shorapur Assembly constituency polls

TWEET OF THE DAY

A Congress goon has fatally attacked Naveen, a silk grower and BJP worker, but the culprits have not been arrested, raising suspicions

@BYVijayendra, BJP state president

THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN THE COUNTRY, THIS IS MY FIRM BELIEF: DK SHIVAKUMAR

KARNATAKA Deputy Chief Minister and State Congress president DK Shivakumar is unarguably the busiest politician in Congress, which is making all-out efforts to extend its winning streak in the assembly polls last year in Karnataka to the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls. There is no Modi or Ram Mandir wave and there will be a change in the country, the Congress leader said in an interaction with **Editor** of *The New Indian Express*, **Santwana Bhattacharya,** and **Assistant Resident Editor, Ramu Patil,** as part of "Karnataka Dialogues," a mini conclave, in a session titled "To the polls...and after" organised by TNIE in Bengaluru. Excerpts...

■ SANTWANA BHATTACHARYA: In the run-up to the assembly elections, you had said Congress would win 140 seats. You were on the mark: the party won 136. Now, what is your assessment of the situation in the state as well as nationally? How many seats will Congress win in Karnataka and across India?

DK SHIVAKUMAR: As far as Karnataka is concerned in assembly polls last year, in the initial stage I had predicted 141. This was my political arithmetic. We had some internal issues in five to six seats and we lost it. Now, coming to the Lok Sabha polls, the nomination process is over for the 14 Lok Sabha seats and remaining 14, we are issuing 'B' forms. I am confident that in Karnataka, we are going to give a significant number to Parliament. Earlier, though we had our government here in 2019, we could not give a good number of seats to Parliament. As far as the national level is concerned, our seats are not finalised in many parts. But for the NDA, it will not cross 200 seats. In Karnataka, there is no Modi or Ram Mandir wave. On the other hand, Congress has stood for its values and delivered what we promised, people trust us. There will be a change in the country, this is my firm belief.

■ RAMU PATIL: What are the factors working for the Congress? Unlike the BJP, the Congress or I.N.D.I.A bloc is not projecting a PM face. Is that the correct approach?

DKS: We are a bloc of 23 political parties, still I.N.D.I.A has not decided who should be the prime ministerial candidate. We believe in collective leadership. I.N.D.I.A was born in Karnataka as it was decided at a meeting held here. We look at every state and all the leaders. Our AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge is the convenor of the alliance. Collectively, we will face the elections and we are getting a good response for this. In Karnataka, if BJP was strong and if they were confident of winning all 28 seats, what was the need to have an alliance with JDS? They are weak and that is why they went to a party that had thrown them out of power earlier. They have joined together with a purpose to defeat Congress, it is the people of Karnataka who will decide.

■ RP: Do you think the guarantee schemes approach will be a game-changer for Congress? It worked in Karnataka, Telangana. Now there are national promises....

DKS: We coined this guarantee scheme. It is not done for the party, but for the welfare of people of this country. A woman had to pay Rs 400 to Rs 1,000 for a gas cylinder, cooking oil price increased from Rs 90 to Rs 220 per litre and prices of many other commodities increased. Even during Covid time, the Central government tried helping big companies and not the small people. We decided to help people economically. BJP looks into emotions, we look into development of every individual. We gave free power, women can now take free bus rides and women get Rs 2,000. It is the development of the common man, and through this their socio-economic status will improve. We went to Telangana and Himachal Pradesh, where we delivered our promises. This is not guaranteed only for votes, but to give strength to the common man.

■ SB: But you also have Modi's guarantees as a reply to it...

DKS: Modi works on emotions. He works on Article 370, Ram Mandir, CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) and other such issues. We will look at a hungry person. If a person's stomach is full, he will be happy. When Congress was in power at the Centre, we came up with many laws including right to food, right to employment, etc, but in the last ten years, this NDA government did not bring any such law to help the common man. This is the difference between our party and theirs.

■ SB: Do you think projecting Kharge as prime ministerial face would have helped Congress, particularly in Karnataka?

DKS: Kharge is the convenor of I.N.D.I.A bloc, our ultimate goal is to win more seats in each state. Then parties will decide. There was a time when Sonia Gandhi led the UPA, MPs wanted her to become PM. But she sacrificed this and gave the opportunity to an economist [Dr Manmohan Singh]. This is the inner strength and leadership of Congress. Let I.N.D.I.A come to power, then we will decide.

■ RP: There is a perception that development has taken a backseat in Karnataka due to huge allocations for the guarantee schemes.... How do you respond?

DKS: If I am strong, my country will become strong. I should be physically, mentally and financially healthy. Also, guarantee schemes allocation is just Rs 52,000 crore and for a state like Karnataka, it is not a big amount. We are there for the common people. The PM could not control the prices of commodities. The PM said he will double the income of farmers, which he could not. We need development and we have allocated Rs 1.27 lakh crore for the development of the state. We look at problems from a common man's perspective. In Bharat Jodo Yatra, an old woman gave a cucumber to Rahul Gandhi and told him that she had grown it on the land given to her because of Indira Gandhi. This is the gratitude of people who were landless many years ago.

■ SB: On one hand, your government is going to the Supreme Court for not getting drought relief funds from the Centre, and at the same time, the government is allocating huge amounts of funds for guarantee schemes...

DKS: Every piece of document is available online. The way funds are allocated to Maharashtra or Andhra Pradesh is not the same. Karnataka is the second top state in the country to pay taxes. Today Karnataka is witnessing drought in 224 taluks. It is the duty of the Central government to provide drought relief funds. The CM (Siddaramaiah) and the ministers met the Union Ministers. But not a single rupee has been given. Earlier, when such droughts were declared, thousands of crores were allocated to the states. When a state reels under severe drought or in extreme situations like Covid, the mandatory 100-day job under the MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) is extended to 150 days. If it was a BJP government in power in Karnataka, they would have helped us, like how they have done in states where BJP is in power. They do not want to lend any help as Congress is in power (in Karnataka) and the people here did not not vote for them.

Even in Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget, where they allocated Rs 5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra project, not a single rupee has been released. We are being looked at as political enemies.

■ SB: What is Congress and I.N.D.I.A bloc's narrative when you go to the voter this election? Is it a strain on the federal relationship? Or the promise of guarantee? Or saving the Constitution?

DKS: There is no level playing ground. Centre is taking our money and is torturing us. We want to fight for our taxes. On issues like Mahadayi and Mekedatu or any other issue bothering the state, BJP MPs (from Karnataka) have not raised their voices. There are 27 MPs from Karnataka's BJP and one from Congress. Karnataka is facing drought and this could have been averted had the necessary permissions for Mahadayi and Mekedatu projects been given. If they really wished to solve the problems, they could have done so, but BJP's eyes, ears and heart are closed. Our main narrative is "Our Tax, Our Right".

■ SB: Many popular Congress leaders have joined BJP. Why isn't Congress able to retain its leaders?

DKS: BJP is misusing the central agencies. The party is like a washing machine where the leaders who jump parties are being cleaned up. Many leaders in Maharashtra — the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and former Chief Minister — jumped to BJP. Immediately, the Union cabinet closed all the cases against them. They are threatening every leader with central agencies and they are successful at that. Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal is put behind bars at a time when the nation is facing elections. Every day, my family and relatives and friends are getting nearly 20 notices from central agencies. We are harassed on a daily basis to kill me politically.

■ RP: Despite all the challenges you brought the Congress party to power in Karnataka. What needs to be done to the party in other states and at the national level to revive it?

DKS: I have not looked at the national level. There are leaders like Mallikarjuna Kharge and others, and I am just looking at the state level. I am too tied up here having two major portfolios. After the Lok Sabha elections, I am sure, we will have a clear road map on it.

■ RP: BJP and JDS leaders say that after the Lok Sabha polls, the Congress government in Karnataka will not be stable ? What is your response?

DKS: I think these two parties are daydreaming. Our government is safe. Why did JDS and BJP join hands? There were many JDS leaders who were ready to jump to BJP. To keep their flock together they have joined hands.

PHOTO: ALLEN EGENUSE J

EXPRESS Dialogues

BJP is misusing the central agencies. The party is like a washing machine where the leaders who jump parties are being cleaned up

– DK SHIVAKUMAR, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER AND KPCC PRESIDENT

■ RP: What is your opinion on electoral bonds issue? Will it resonate with the voters or is it too technical for voters to understand?

DKS: The apex court of the country has given a judgement against the bonds. It clearly termed them illegal. After being slapped with notices from central agencies like ED and CBI, many companies have purchased bonds and this is one of the biggest corruption cases. Now the question is whether tax would be applicable or not on the money that has come to the political party. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has to reply.

■ SB: There was a parliamentary sovereign promise that the names of those giving money through electoral bonds would not be disclosed. Now, all that has been disclosed. As somebody who has been in political life for very long, how do you think it will impact political funding in the future?

DKS: It is very difficult for any political party now. No businessman will come forward to help any party, though we have provisions to issue cheques to political parties, they will be afraid of such types of governments in power. Definitely, there will be a lot of impact. But, the court has already given a judgment, let me not discuss much on that issue.

■ RP: You referred to the Mekedatu balancing reservoir project which your alliance partner DMK opposes. Will you convince them post LS polls?

DKS: Whether it is DMK or AIADMK, all are one in Tamil Nadu when it comes to their state's interests. According to me, their interest also will be protected by implementing the project. The Supreme Court has ordered release of 177 tmcft of water to TN in its judgment. Abiding by it, Karnataka can build a reservoir. But they want the reservoir to be built in their territory... and we want to build in ours. The court will help us in this regard. The project area comes under my Kanakapura Assembly constituency. We implement the project and allocate water for Bengaluru and southern parts of the state.

■ SB: The opposition is raising the issue of EVMs. Rahul Gandhi made a statement which led to BJP making a complaint to ECI. The SC accepted the plea whereby 100% matching of VVPAT (Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail) with EVM (Electronic Voting Machine) Data has been accepted. Do you think that is going to make a big difference?

DKS: Political parties should be cautious on this issue. In Madhya Pradesh when counting happened, 75 percent of the votes on ballot went for Congress and in EVMs the case was reversed, and even BJP themselves got shocked. Every vote should be looked into by our polling agents. I don't understand the technology, but a lot of our other leaders are discussing the issue. There should be fair, free and transparent polls.

■ RP: You took the initiative of Brand Bengaluru to enhance the image of the city, but Bengaluru continues to face the basic issues like traffic congestion, waste management and other things. As Bengaluru development minister, where do you see this city in the next ten years or so?

DKS: I took water resources and Bengaluru development portfolios with a passion.Though I was not born here, I've been brought up here and have been living here for over fifty years. Since Bengaluru is not a planned city like New Delhi, Chandigarh and Mysuru, the roads here cannot be widened as the price of compensation will be huge. Twenty years ago, when I was urban development minister, the population of the city was 55-60 lakh. Now it is 1.4 crore. Some families own 4-5 cars, and we cannot impose extra tax on them like in some other countries. We look at alternatives such as Metro trains, ring roads etc. If there was no NICE road it would have been a big problem. Parallelly, we have planned the peripheral ring road at an estimated cost of Rs 26,000 crore to Rs 27,000 crore. Meanwhile, farmers have been protesting against it, but I don't want to give it up. We have also planned for a tunnel road for which tenders have been called. We have received 70,000 suggestions for Brand Bengaluru including solid waste management. We are compiling them. We also want to tap the tourism potential of the city which is an IT hub and knowledge capital. Except for Vidhana Soudha there were no places of attraction for the commoners. In 3-4 months we will start working on our agenda.

■ SB: Predictions for BJP and NDA coming with 370-400 LS seats. If that kind of a scenario happens, Congress would be out of power for the longest time, almost 15 years. After Nehru, Modi would be the second PM to be in that post for the third time. How does it pan out for the Congress?

DKS: If BJP was strong, why would they have allied with JD(S) in Karnataka? Why would they need to induct leaders from Shiv Sena and NCP in Maharashtra, or (Naveen) Jindal? They feel that they will not cross even 200 seats. It is just for public consumption that they are projecting these numbers, but not with their inner strength.

■ RP: The BJP-JD(S) alliance has created a lot of buzz especially in Bengaluru Rural. Amit Shah launched his poll campaign from there. How is the scenario in the only LS seat that the Congress could win last time?

DKS: They admitted that they are weak and hence came to the Parliamentary constituency in Channapatna. If the JD(S) was strong, why did former PM H D Deve Gowda ask his son-in- law (Dr CN Manjunath) to contest on the BJP ticket? Take it from me on record: They will not win in any of the four seats including the three that the JD(S) took as part of its alliance with BJP.

■ RP: What about the socio-economic survey (Caste census) report by the backward classes commission. There was opposition from Veerashaiva Lingayats and also Vokkaligas?

DKS: As far as our party is concerned, we want the caste census, but it should be done in a systematic way by letting all the stakeholders give their opinions. We are not against it. The report came and after coming to know about the numbers (population of each caste) we should take an appropriate step.

FROM THE AUDIENCE:

■ Why did Congress field dynasts, the family members of leaders, in 15-16 LS seats, even as BJP constantly attacked you on the issue.

DKS: The BJP is also in the same boat as they also gave tickets to family members even at the instance of replacing the candidates. See, it has become inevitable for us. The leaders get groomed in leaders' houses. My brother was not in public life, but used to help me. Meantime, when I was out of power, the bypolls for Bengaluru Rural were announced. Without consulting me, CM Siddaramaiah announced my brother DK Suresh as a candidate as HD Kumaraswamy declared his wife as JD(S) candidate. The BJP-JDS fought combined, and I had to show my political clout and eventually my brother won by 1.3 lakh votes. He won three consecutive polls. Taking the aspirations of the local leaders, including MLAs, a dozen of family members of leaders are being given tickets this time.

■ Was the decision based on a survey or ground reports?

DKS: Certainly we consider surveys. Personally, DK Shivakumar will not believe in the surveys unless the sample size is not less than 50,000 in every assembly constituency. Some surveys in the recent past predicted lesser seats for Congress in the assembly polls in the state.

■ You got it right when your predictions came right in assembly polls. What is your assessment of Mysuru-Kodagu?

DKS: It is too early to predict. We have fielded a man next door — M Lakshaman, a Vokkaliga — after several decades of hue and cry by the community. Myself and the CM decided to give it to a Vokkaliga against Yaduveer (scion of the royal Wadiyar family of Mysuru). Things are likely to take different shapes in the days to come.

■ But you being close to the royal family, you too might have approached them?

DKS: I had a message that the family member would take a political plunge, but BJP struck the deal.

■ Will you stake a claim for CM post, after LS polls if Congress performs well?

DKS: The matter is already settled between myself, Siddaramaiah, Mallikarjun Kharge and the party high command. But I don't want to set the date.

(You can watch the full interview on TNIE Videos Youtube channel)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's roadshow in Mangaluru on April 14 is likely to be cut short as SPG has not granted permission for the entire stretch of the roadshow. BJP MLA Y Bharat Shetty said SPG has given permission only for a part of the proposed event

CBI arrests BRS leader Kavitha in Tihar Jail

Will be produced before spl court today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

COMPOUNDING troubles for already embattled Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader **K Kavitha**, the CBI on Thursday arrested her in the case following questioning in Tihar Jail, where she has been lodged in connection with an Enforcement Directorate (ED) case under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) linked to alleged Delhi excise policy 'scam'.

Officials in the agency said, Kavitha, 46, the daughter of former Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, was held in Tihar jail where she was lodged after her arrest by the ED under provisions he PMLA linked to the 'scam' on March 15.

The officials said, the CBI had had questioned Kavitha inside the prison on Saturday evening, after obtaining permission from a special court here and she was questioned about the WhatsApp chats recovered from co-accused Buchi Babu's phone and documents related to a land deal after which Rs 100 crore was allegedly paid to AAP in kickbacks to swing the now-scrapped excise policy in favour of a liquor lobby.

The CBI made the arrest in jail number 6 of Tihar jail around 12 noon on Thursday under Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) read with Section 477-A (falsification of accounts) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 7 (offence relating to public servant being bribed) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, the officials said.

Kavitha would remain in Tihar jail on Thursday, as the agency plans to produce her before a special court here on Friday to seek her remand.

"If the CBI gets her remand, Kavitha will be moved to a lock-up at the agency headquarters where she will be questioned by officers of the Anti-Corruption Branch, which is probing the case," a senior CBI official said.

The CBI, which has so far filed three charge sheets against a number of accused, including former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, has alleged that kickbacks worth around Rs 90-100 crore were paid in advance to some AAP leaders and public servants by some people in the liquor business from South India through Nair and co-accused Abhishek Boinpally and Dinesh Arora.

RO asked me to reduce Raja's spend: Poll officer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Nilgiris

AN Assistant Expenditure Observer (AEO) in the Nilgiris Lok Sabha constituency has written to the Chief Electoral Officer of Tamil Nadu alleging that the Returning Officer demanded he reduce the expenditure recorded as spent by DMK candidate A Raja to closer match the candidate's accounts. According to P Saravanan, the AEO, the shadow observation register (SOR) maintained by him showed a difference in expenditure to the tune of several lakhs of rupees. However, the RO M Aruna, who is also the Nilgiris collector, has refuted the allegations, pointing out that Saravanan is only one of six AEOs monitoring candidate expenditure from different locations.

"I did not ask him to record a lower expenditure for the DMK candidate. On the instructions of the observers, I checked the expenditure documents of all the candidates. I did pull up this AEO for errors in the record," Aruna told TNIE.

As per the election expenditure report of A Raja, there is a difference of ₹41,00,649 between the candidate's expenditure register, which showed expenses of ₹13,44,012 and the SOR which showed expenses of ₹54,44,661 till the date of inspection on April 8. The report also stated that the candidate disagreed with the expenditure mentioned in the SOR as cost of flags, pamphlets, mike sets and sought for the amount to be determined judiciously. Incidentally, there is a difference of ₹12,78,528 between the expenditure register of BJP candidate L Murugan, which showed expenses of ₹7,66,400 and the SOR which showed expenses of ₹20,44,928. The maximum expenditure limit set by by the Election Commission of India for each Lok Sabha candidate is ₹95 lakh.

Saravanan, in his letter to CEO Satyabrata Sahoo, dated April 10, alleged that the expenditure recorded in the SOR differed from the book of accounts of Raja.

FESTIVE VIBES

A vendor arranges idols of Lord Krishna for Vishu, in Thrissur on Thursday | TP SOORAJ

BJD fields Lekhashree from Balasore, drops Bhupinder

BHUBANESWAR: Days after joining the BJD, former BJP vice-president Lekhashree Samantsinghar was declared the party's candidate for the Balasore Lok Sabha seat by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here on Thursday. The chief minister also announced names of the party's candidates for nine Assembly segments. With this, the BJD has announced candidates for all the 21 LS seats and 117 Assembly seats. With Lekhashree, the ruling party has now fielded women candidates in seven Lok Sabha seats which constitutes one-third of the total constituencies in the state. Lekhashree is pitted against sitting Balasore MP from BJP and former Union minister Pratap Chandra Sarangi.

Kerala HC dismisses Swaraj's plea against Babu's election

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

IN a big relief for Congress MLA K Babu, the Kerala High Court has dismissed the petition filed by CPM leader M Swaraj seeking to declare the former minister's election from the Tripunithura assembly constituency null and void.

Swaraj, who lost to Babu by a slender margin of 992 votes in the 2021 assembly election, had alleged that Babu canvassed votes in the name of Lord Ayyappa and Sabarimala women's entry issue.

Dismissing the plea, Justice PG Ajithkumar held that Swaraj failed to prove beyond doubt that Babu committed corrupt practice as alleged.

In the petition, Swaraj alleged that Babu and other Congress workers canvassed votes in the name of Lord Ayyappa. They distributed election slips with the wording 'Ningalude vote Ayyappanu' (Your vote for Ayyappa) and a picture of Lord Sabarimala Ayyappa, below which the election symbol was printed along with a request to vote, the plea stated.

In reply to the allegation, the election agent of the Congress candidate said he or anyone with their consent did not print or publish such slips. Those are the creations of the petitioner himself for the election plea, the election stated. Babu's counsel submitted that the witnesses are ardent workers of CPM or its foster organisations, and their oral testimonies are not supported by any independent evidence. The evidence is insufficient to prove the distribution of the slips, the counsel stated.

The court said the evidence tendered by four witnesses regarding the distribution of slips to them by the election agent and others is not free from doubt. "I am of the view that without other evidence or circumstances to corroborate, oral testimonies of those witnesses alone are insufficient to prove beyond doubt that slips containing a picture of Lord Ayyappa and similar slips were distributed on behalf of Babu to the electors in the Tripunithura constituency," said the single judge.

The tiger near the Harihara temple lake, South Kodagu | EXPRESS

Foresters out to catch tiger stung by bees

ENS @ Madikeri

FORESTERS and tamed elephants involved in combing and the tiger capture mission in Kodagu were injured in a bee attack on Thursday. The incident was reported on the forest fringes of Harihara village in South Kodagu.

The tiger footfall is back in South Kodagu even as residents captured the movement of a tiger at close human proximity. On Wednesday noon, a prowling tiger spotted at Harihara village in Ponnampet taluk, reigniting the fear among farmers, labourers and other residents. Following this, the Forest Department took steps to trace the conflict tiger in the area. Alongside camera traps placed on the forest fringes in the conflict zone, the department took to the combing operation to trace the movements of the tiger.

However, on Thursday noon, DRFO Ranjan and tamed elephant Bheema were injured after they were attacked by a swarm of bees. The incident took place during the combing operation across the forest region in the village. Ranjan has been admitted to the district hospital in Madikeri and elephant Bheema has suffered minor injuries. Nevertheless, the department continued with the combing operation with the rest of the staff, including another tamed elephant, Mahendra.

T Shettigeri, 2nd Rudraguppe, Harihara, K Badaga villages and surrounding areas have become a tiger conflict zone in the recent past even as two humans were killed in a tiger attack reported in February last year.

Cong netas slam Nirmala, say K'taka forced to move SC for aid

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

THE issue is if Rs 13 is justified for a progressive state like Karnataka by depriving a fair share of funds, they (Centre) are pushing us into becoming Bhimaru states," he said.

"Anything that doesn't suit BJP or RSS ideology, they call it separatist, urban naxals and 'tukde tukde' gang. These are the languages spoken by the Union government. They have been in power for 10 years, if at all there were separatist voices why have they not been able to control them?," he said, adding that those who raise their voice against the Centre and seek justice are termed separatists.

He said Congress and DMK are equal partners and the former plays no second fiddle to the latter as Sitharaman claimed. "The BJP, which had an alliance with AIADMK, was eventually ignored. If it did not have CBI, IT, ED and certain media on its side, it would have been nowhere in the country," he said.On Sitharaman's claim that the state is politicising issues such as devolution of funds and non-release of aid to tackle drought by moving the Supreme Court, which are non-issues, Kharge said, "Obviously, they are not issues at all for her because it's her mistake. Will the Centre accept its mistake? The SC stated that why should the states approach it for their due share? That itself shows that the Centre is on the backfoot. Sitaraman is wrong."

"Karnataka moved the Supreme Court after pursuing the matter relentlessly with the Centre for seven months. We met all officers concerned, the FM, HM and PM, but did not get any positive response," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said.

As the state had fulfilled all requirements, the Centre called Karnataka's "drought declaration" as an exemplary method to be replicated by other states. "We should have got relief in November as per the rules of the Centre. But the BJP government ignored the needs of farmers of the state. As the last resort, we sought the intervention of SC to get our rightful share," he said.

"When Narendra Modiji as CM demanded that all tax money of Gujarat be returned to Gujarat, was he not a separatist? We are demanding our fair share. By suppressing the needs of Karnataka, the BJP government is insulting the people of Karnataka and weakening federalism. Instead of insulting and name-calling, the Centre must talk to states, understand their issues and offer solutions. This would strengthen the union. BJP's assault on states weakens the union," he said.

KPCC media cell chairman and former MLC Ramesh Babu said, calling Congress a fringe party is a reflection of Sitharaman's state of mind.

"Karnataka is not getting funds from NDRF to tackle drought and also its tax share. It is sad that Nirmala did not raise her voice for Karnataka. She might have forgotten that she represents Kannadigas in the RS. Let people of the state decide. Let them teach her and BJP a lesson in the LS elections," said KPCC women's wing president Puspa Amarnath.

POLL TALK

Candidates sling mud at each other

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

WITH all three candidates being well educated — Annamalai and Ramachandran are IIM graduates while Rajkumar is a PhD holder — voters in Coimbatore, which has a literacy rate of over 90 per cent, expected a graceful poll debate. Unfortunately, what they witnessed was mud-slinging. Soon after the BJP announced Annamalai as its Coimbatore candidate, DMK minister TRB Rajaa said, "Goat biryani is getting ready." For his part, Annamalai commented that Ramachandran got admission through the MLA quota, evoking a strong rebuttal from the AIADMK candidate, who said his father died when he was 11 years old and sought an apology from the BJP state president.

Annamalai announced that he would not give even a single rupee for a vote. But faced stinging attack from the opposition, when a flying squad seized Rs 4 crore, allegedly belonging to BJP's Tirunelveli candidate.

Annamalai accused the DMK of giving gold earrings and Rs 2,000 cash to voters over 85 years of age who were casting their votes from home. Given that money power played a decisive role in the previous elections, it remains to be seen if it would do an encore this time.

Pollsters are keenly watching if BJP's narrative as an alternative for the Dravidian parties is being lapped up by Tamil voters.

In a state where caste equations play a crucial role, one can't miss the fact that Annamalai and Rajkumar belong to the dominant Goundar community. Though senior AIADMK leaders in the region are Goundars, the party fielded Ramachandran from the Naidu community, to win both communities.

If Annamalai fails to put up a decent show, it would become an embarrassment not only for the party but also for Modi, who visited Coimbatore thrice. It may also take a knock on the party's plans for the 2026 polls.

Wait gets longer for deployment of full-body scanners at B'luru airport

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE country's first full-body scanners are being tested systematically since last month at Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport. However, it would take months to be used on passengers, according to a senior security official.

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) had recently announced that these scanners would become operational at Bengaluru airport in April. "This is not a possibility as of now," the senior security official said. With KIA being the busiest airport in South India and the third largest in the country, passenger safety is a top priority here. These hi-tech scanners can help with enhanced checks.

KIA was the first in the country to procure these scanners from abroad, which costs Rs 1.75 crore (plus import duty) per piece. "It works out to 100 times that of the Door Frame Metal Detector which ranges from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 1.75 lakh a piece depending on the make," the official said.

Three scanners purchased months ago are placed in Terminal 2 of KIA. But none of them are operational yet. "We propose to use all three only for domestic passengers. The Central Industrial Security Force had been trial-running them on and off earlier. Since last month, we have been regularly and systematically carrying out the trials. There is no chance of them being used anytime soon. After the CISF is satisfied with the ongoing trials, it has to apprise the Centre of its results and findings. A demonstration needs to be done, and the Centre's approval is needed. There is no way it can be put into operation in April and will take much longer," he added.

The misconception among passengers, particularly women, that the scanning would capture private body parts was completely wrong, the official stressed. "This is not an X-ray machine. It quickly scans the body, and no recording of anything is made. They are Millimeter wave scanners and do not generate any radiation," he explained.

The scanner would help detect concealed non-metal objects in the body too, unlike the DFMD, or hand-held metal detector, which only alerts about metallic substances. "If the passenger passes through it after removing all items like a watch, ring, chain, belt, and so on, it would take only between 30 seconds and 40 seconds to scan a person. But if some object remains, the person needs to go back, queue up, and repeat it," he explains.

This Kannada lover from TN is PU topper of Ch'nagar dist

Mysuru: This girl from a village in Tamil Nadu's Erode district has wowed many by topping Chamarajanagar district in the II PU results that were announced on Wednesday. Beating all the odds, Deepika from a village in Talawadi of Erode has scored the highest marks in the PU examination and has become Chamarajanagar district topper. She scored 589 out of 600 marks. She says she wanted to study in Karnataka because of her love for Kannada language. Though there are colleges in Erode district with Tamil as first language, her love for Kannada made her pursue PU at a college in Chamarajanagar. She travelled 60 km daily to reach the college and used to take a bus at 7 am and return in the evening. Deepika said that she made use of two hours of travel time to study and revise subjects in the bus and this helped her to do well in the PU examination.

WATCH WHAT YOU EAT

'Ketchup, flavoured drinks loaded with sugar'

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

NATIONAL Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the government's child rights body, has banned the use of the term, 'health drinks', for beverages with added flavours that are consumed by children, particularly those aged below 10.

The decision follows concerns raised by food and health educator Revant Himatsingka, who is also known as food pharmer, over high sugar content in such drinks.

"Tomato ketchup and biscuits are the other food products loaded with high hidden sugar content, which are consumed mindlessly by people of all age groups," Revant told TNIE.

About 50 grams of ketchup contains approximately one tablespoon of sugar. When individuals consume food items such as samosas, they unknowingly help themselves with two to three tablespoons of sauce with high sugar content, he said.

Likewise, biscuits are high in sugar content. While biscuits are commonly enjoyed with tea in many Indian households, they also contribute to daily sugar intake without much awareness, he said.

Revant said while individuals are often aware of the sugar content in chocolates, products such as biscuits and ketchup conceal the high sugar content, leading to a lack of realisation about their unhealthy nature.

It is essential for people to carefully read the label on every food product they consume. Ingredients are typically listed in descending order of quantity, with the most abundant ingredient listed first. Therefore, if a label lists sugar, refined flour, and palm oil as the first three ingredients, it is advisable for individuals to avoid incorporating that product into their daily consumption.

Beverages once deemed to be health drinks, now typically contain approximately 20-30% added sugar of the total content of 40%. Total sugar content includes both white sugar and natural sweeteners, whereas added sugar specifically refers to white sugar, a food expert told TNIE.

Edwina Raj, head of services - Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics, Aster CMI Hospital, said, "Health drinks do not have any scientific backing and are misleading."

Achieving impossible things has been Modi's hallmark. While Modi taught a lesson to militants, former PM Dr Manmohan Singh only wrote to his Pakistani counterpart complaining of repeated attacks on India

Basavaraj Bommai, BJP candidate for Haveri Lok Sabha constituency

EVERY VOTE FOR CONG IS VOTE FOR ECONOMIC BANKRUPTCY AND CORRUPTION, SAYS BSY

Yediyurappa says people will reject those who try to divide nation and religion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

SENIOR BJP leader and former chief minister, BS Yediyurappa, said on Thursday that every vote for the Congress and I.N.D.I.A bloc in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections will be a vote for corruption, and economic bankruptcy, and affect the country's internal security.

Speaking to media persons here on Thursday, the Lingayat strongman said that the Congress leaders have lost confidence in their leader, Rahul Gandhi. "They (Congress leaders) are not even mentioning his (Rahul Gandhi) name while campaigning. They have lost confidence in him. Rahul's leadership has failed," Yediyurappa added.

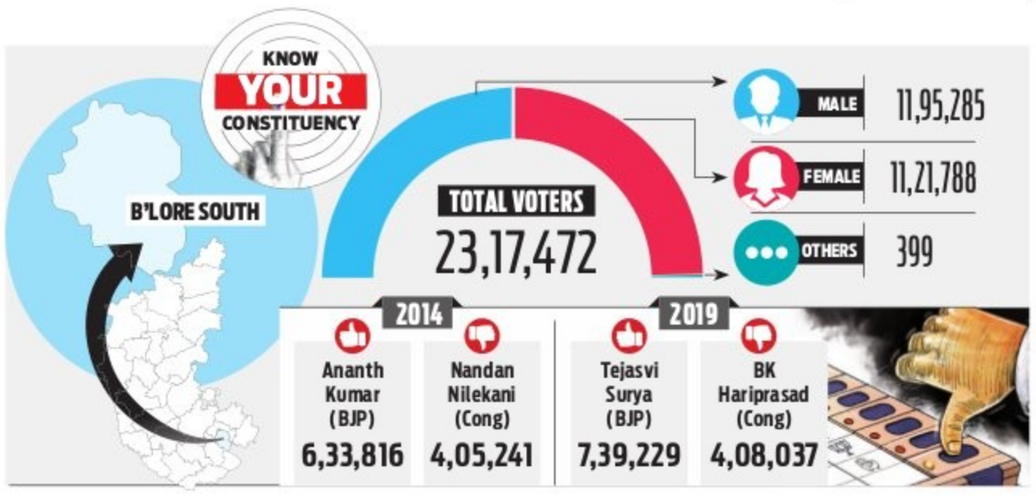
Taking the Siddaramaiah-led State Government to task, Yediyurappa said that with no achievements to boast of, the Congress leaders in Karnataka were blaming the Union Government. He said the BJP is facing the upcoming Lok Sabha elections based on Prime Minister Narendra Modi government's achievements in the last 10 years.

BJP leader and former CM BS Yediyurappa during a Lok Sabha election campaign rally in Chikkamagaluru on Thursday | EXPRESS

Slamming the Congress for accusing the Centre of not creating 2 crore jobs, Yediyurappa said an increase in the number of Bhavishya Nidhi (PF) accounts during Modi's tenure indicates that a large number of jobs have been created. In 2014, MSME had given jobs to five crore people, and in 2022, it was 6.3 crore, he said. "In Bengaluru, they spread a rumour that HAL would be shut down. But the same PSU has a work order of Rs 84,000 crore, and additional work order worth Rs 50,000 crore are in the pipeline," the former CM added.

On national security, Yediyurappa said a vote for Congress would damage the internal security of the nation, whereas a vote for Modi would enhance it. "People will reject those who try to divide the nation and religion. We are going to win. I have assured BJP Central leaders that the NDA will win all 28 seats in Karnataka," he said.

Yediyurappa further said that the differences within the BJP during the candidate selection have been sorted out.



IT'S BATTLE OF YOUTH IN BANGALORE SOUTH

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

IN the battle of youth at the prestigious Bangalore South Lok Sabha constituency, Congress candidate Sowmya Reddy, daughter of Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, is pitted against BJP sitting MP Tejasvi Surya.

Considered a BJP stronghold, Congress is making a hard bid this time to break the saffron party's winning streak of 33 years. BJP has won eight consecutive Lok Sabha elections here and is confident of winning the ninth one too.

The startup hub Koramangala and IT hub Bommanahalli are part of the constituency, which has eight Assembly segments. Of them, Basavanagudi, Jayanagar, Bommanahalli, Padmanabhanagar and Chickpet are represented by BJP MLAs, while Vijayanagar, Govindarajanagar and BTM Layout have Congress MLAs.

Interestingly, Sowmya's father Ramalinga Reddy represents BTM Layout, while BJP candidate Tejasvi Surya's uncle Ravi Subramanya is Basavanagudi MLA. A powerful and influential politician, Ramalinga Reddy has a strong grip over Jayanagar and BTM Layout constituencies and also neighbouring segments. Ensuring the victory of his daughter is now a prestige issue for him.

Tejasvi Surya

Sowmya Reddy

Both youngsters -- Sowmya is 41 years old, while Surya is 33 -- they are politically active at the national level in their respective parties. Sowmya is the general secretary of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee and All-India Mahila Congress, while Suryva is the BJP Yuva Morcha Wing national president. Surya is a bachelor in law, while Sowmya has done MS in Environmental Technology.

While Sowmya expects maximum support from BTM Layout, Vijayanagar and Govindarajanagar, Surya is depending on Basavanagudi, Bommanahalli, Padmanabhanagar and Jayanagar for victory. Though the constituency has strong supporters for both BJP and Congress, JDS hardly has a presence here.

Being part of core Bengaluru, the constituency has voters from Schedule Castes, Vokkaligas, Brahmins, Muslims and other communities. Tejasvi, a Brahmin, and Sowmya, a Reddy (OBC), are also pinning hopes on support from their respective communities.

The constituency has seen 13 elections since 1951 (including when it was part of the then Mysuru State). Of them, BJP has won seven, Janatha Party three and Congress two. Previously, the Grand Old Party has tried various tactics to win this seat, but to no avail. It fielded veteran BK Hariprasad in 2019, senior leader Krishna Byregowda in 2009 and non-politician Nandan Nilekani, an Infosys founder, in 2014, but all of them could not take on the BJP juggernaut.

But Congress hopes that it could be different this time, what with the influence of veteran Ramalinga Reddy over South Bengaluru. Sowmya too is a familiar face in the Jayanagar Assembly constituency having served it for one term from 2014 and losing the 2019 election by a margin of mere 16 votes.

Though the constituency has seen elite candidates, the polling percentage here has always been among the lowest in the state. It recorded 53.47% voter turnout in 2019, 55.75% in 2014, 44.7% in 2009, 49.4 per cent in 2004.

The constituency has 23,17,472 registered voters. Of them 11.95 are male, 11.21 lakh female and 399 others.

POLL VAULT

Cong guarantees are not permanent schemes: Gowda

Holenarasipur: JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda on Thursday said guarantees announced by the Congress government are not permanent. Addressing a poll rally in Bagivalu village of Holenarasipur taluk, he said the government has failed to give priority to much-needed developmental works. Coming down heavily on DCM DK Shivakumar for allegedly transporting cash from Bengaluru for elections in five states, Gowda said the people have been frustrated with the decisions of the government. Urging people to support his grandson Prajwal in the Lok Sabha elections, Gowda said the need of the hour is to save the country by ensuring a full majority for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ENS

Siddu aide joins BJP

Mysuru: Congress leader Gurupadaswamy, a close aide of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and who had worked hard for the latter's victory from Varuna constituency in the 2023 assembly polls, joined the BJP on Thursday. Welcoming him into the party, BJP state president Vijayendra said Gurupadaswamy expressed his unconditional support and will be with the party to ensure the victory of candidates. ENS

CM releases Kannada translation of Nirmala's hubby's book

Bengaluru: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday released the Kannada translation of a book authored by noted economist Parakala Prabhakar, husband of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The book, The crooked timber of New India, a compilation of essays critiquing the policies of the Centre, has been translated into Kannada as 'Henavaguttiruva Bharata' by Rahu. Thinker Sudheendra Kulkarni, CM's political secretary B R Patil and writer Rajappa Dalwai among others were present. The book has come at a time when the Congress and Sitharaman are at loggerheads over the release of funds to the state. The Congress went hammer and tongs against Sitharaman accusing her of not ensuring the state's due share of tax devolution and the release of NDRF funds for drought relief. ENS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah releases the book – Henavaguttiruva Bharata – authored by Parakala Prabhakar at Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru on Thursday

BJP leader joins Cong in RSS uniform

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

A BJP leader from Menasagi, who was a worker of RSS, joined Congress in Sangh "ganavesha" (uniform) at a function in Nargund on Tuesday.

A video of the event is now trending on social media. It is for the first time in the North Karnataka region that a worker of RSS has joined Congress in Sangh uniform. People were surprised to see Ningabasappa Banad, the BJP leader from Ron, in RSS uniform at the Congress programme. Many hailed him for his decision to join the Congress.

BJP leader Ningabasappa Banad joins Congress at Nargund on Tuesday

The Congress organised the function as part of its campaign for Bagalkot candidate Samyukta Patil. Minister Shivanand Patil, his daughter Samyukta Patil, former MLA SG Nanjayyanmath, former minister BR Yavagal and other Congress leaders welcomed Ningabasappa.

Ningabasappa was with RSS for 30 years. Shivanand Patil and other Congress leaders offered him the Congress cap and shawl. Ningabasappa removed the RSS cap and wore the Congress' white cap.

However, local BJP leaders said Ningabasappa wore the RSS uniform and joined Congress just to draw people's attention.

HDK defends dad's decision on new mutt for Vokkaligas

BR UDAYA KUMAR
@ Ramanathapura

FORMER chief minister HD Kumaraswamy on Thursday defended the decades-old alleged sensitive decision of his father, former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, to support the formation of a new mutt -- Vishwa Vokkaligara Mahasamsthana – in Bidadi. Addressing reporters here before embarking on his poll campaign, Kumaraswamy said Deve Gowda did not intend setting up an alternative mutt to the existing Adi Chunchanagiri Mutt in Mandya.

His family did not support the new mutt, in the alleged bid to divide the Vokkaliga community.

"What was wrong in supporting a new mutt for Vokkaligas, with other devotees of the same caste having several mutts across the state," Kumaraswamy questioned, adding that his family supported a new mutt in the interest of the Vokkaliga community.

Nominations for Phase-3 polls from April 12

Bengaluru: Fourteen constituencies of North and Kalyana Karnataka will go to polls on May 7 in Phase-3 and candidates will start filing their nominations from April 12. The office of the Chief Electoral Officer said the notification for Shorapur assembly constituency is also on April 12, due to the death of MLA Raja Venkatappa Naik. The list of constituencies that fall under Phase- 3 include Chikkodi, Belagavi, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Raichur, Bidar, Koppal, Ballari, Haveri, Dharwad, Uttara Kannada, Davanagere and Shivamogga. The last date for filing nominations is April 19 and scrutiny is on April 20. The last date for candidates to withdraw nominations is April 22.

'Whole govt machinery must be pushed to restart Brand B'luru'

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

FORMER chief minister and BJP leader SM Krishna, who announced his retirement from politics last year, in a rare interview with *TNIE*, speaks about burning issues of the day like 'Brand Bengaluru', water crisis, India's foreign policy, Cafe Coffee Day and so on.

You are considered the father of 'Brand Bengaluru'. How do you see the brand going?

When I assumed office as chief minister, there was a very keen competition from Hyderabad under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu. He had made tremendous strides in taking technology to the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. I saw the developments we were making and the growth of the big IT companies, like Infosys and Wipro. So I said why should we not utilise their leadership and their innovative politics? So I approached Narayana Murthy of Infosys to be on the CM Committee on IT-BT. Narayana Murthy came and then he jumped at the mention of this and said, "I passed out of NIE Mysore. I owe something to my home state". He said he would be delighted to be part of this development initiative. Then I telephoned Azim Premji who was at his Wipro Office, Sarjapur. I asked him if I could go and meet him. He asked where I was calling from and I said I am speaking from Vidhana Soudha. He asked me, "Have you seen the condition of the road in Sarjapur", and explained I would take half-a-day to visit his office and come back. Then I asked the chief engineer, Public Works Department, to go to Sarjapur and see that the roads are all set right. Premji called me and thanked me. I asked him if he would join the CM's committee on IT-BT and he asked me if I was asking him this question as chief minister or SM Krishna. I said SM Krishna, and he agreed. That was how this concept of bringing IT entrepreneurs to focus on Bangalore's development started. Infosys' Nandan Nilekani became chairman of Bangalore Agenda Task Force. We used to meet every six months. We set targets for Bangalore's growth and there was accountability and accountability became very pronounced. That was how Bengaluru developed and Chandrababu Naidu himself said Bangalore was the hub of IT-BT.

But after I left the office there was a sudden break. This was what happened in 2004. It is most unfortunate. These are the policies that went on to improve the quality of life of the people of the state and it had stopped.

Do you see Bengaluru as a brand progressing in the right direction now that DCM DK Shivakumar is there?

Brand Bangalore cannot be recharged in a few months. It takes sustained effort. I do understand Shivakumar's anxiety to continue the brand status of Bangalore. But I think more effort is needed. The good intentions are visible. So practically, we must push the whole governmental machinery into action.

We are seeing a huge problem with regards to water. When you were chief minister then, there was a similar water scarcity situation. What is the way out of this water crisis?

I think that every summer we face this water crisis. We all come from rural backgrounds. In Somanahalli, Maddur we had a small tank, and so many other tanks to store water. But now what has happened is that they are all heavily silted as a result of which there is lesser storage capacity. Sometimes, desilting these may be not economically feasible. So as a result of which sometimes we may feel handicapped. But then in the long run desilting them is really the solution.

Brand Bangalore cannot be recharged in a few months. It takes sustained effort. I do understand Shivakumar's anxiety to continue the brand status of Bangalore

SM Krishna,
BJP leader and former CM

You had served as foreign affairs minister. Now there is so much change with regards to foreign affairs nationally. Would you like to comment on the present foreign affairs of India?

The present foreign affairs are in the very, very capable hands of Mr Jaishankar. Mr Jaishankar has been one of our Stalwarts. He had been Ambassador to the United States and in China. When I was foreign minister, India did not have the same image that we have today around the world. Today in 10 years, India's imprint on foreign affairs has become very, very eloquent. We are very fortunate that even Prime Minister Modi has tremendous appeal across the world in shaping the world foreign policy. So India has the right. And India has become the power to reckon with in whatever decisions that we can make.

A lot of people have been asking you to write a book. Would you write an autobiography on your life and times?

Yes, I'm planning a book after my tenure as external affairs minister. I am taking the help of a journalist friend of mine from Calcutta. As far as my chief ministership is concerned, there is a book already in Kannada with Sheshasagiri Rao and Javare Gowda, called 'Krishna Patha,' both of them are no longer there.

How do you spend your time?

Well, I watch the internet and YouTube which connects me to a whole lot of developments. I keep myself abreast of developments.

The Yashaswini scheme, which helped hundreds with their health issues, was started during your time...

I was fortunate to have ministers who were very innovative. Yashaswini, which provided help to those who needed help with health and mid-day meals scheme that offered food to children that were conceived by minister AH Vishwanath who was in my government, went on to become national schemes and so many people benefitted from these schemes. When Bommai was CM, the Yashwaswini scheme was revived and nationally Ayushman Bharat is there.

Cafe Coffee Day has gone through some challenges ?

Because they have been through difficult times. Now they are better. My daughter and grandchildren have been able to do well. They have succeeded. There is still a road ahead. They have done their very best to manage the affairs of the company. It needs some more time and they are on the right track.

It's final, KSE to file papers today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

PUTTING to rest all questions on whether he will contest the upcoming elections or not, former DCM and BJP leader K S Eshwarappa said he will file his nomination papers as an independent candidate from Shivamogga Lok Sabha constituency on Friday. Before the submission of papers, thousands of his supporters will take out a march from Ramanna Shreshti Park to Sheenappa Shetty Circle via Gandhi Bazaar and Nehru Road at 10 am.

Eshwarappa's women supporters pooled in Rs 24,000 for his deposit while the seer of Bheemanakatte of Tirthahalli taluk blessed him with a cash donation of Rs 1,000. "This is the sign of victory. My ordinary workers are my star campaigners," he told reporters on Thursday.

Eshwarappa said he has already completed one round of campaigning in all the eight assembly constituencies and he has been getting an overwhelming response. Once he files his papers, he will double his efforts.

The BJP has set a target to win 370 seats alone, leaving 30 seats to 32 NDA allies. We don't have any problem with that. It is up to the NDA partners what they think of BJP's target. But if the target materialises, then how will democracy sustain?

Manik Sarkar, CPM politburo member

DAVID vs GOLIATH

PARVEZ SULTAN @New Delhi

THE year was 1967. A flamboyant socialist youth in South Bombai and the Samyukt Socialist Party candidate, George Fernandes, defeated Congress' all powerful SK Patil in the Lok Sabha elections, after which the term 'giant-killer' gained currency in the elections parlance. Since then, each election in India has seen giant-killers — lesser known candidates defeating well-entrenched competitors. In 2024 too, there are seemingly weak candidates set to take on bigwigs.

Vikas Thakre, the incumbent Congress MLA from Nagpur city, has been entrusted with the herculean task of taking on cabinet minister and BJP stalwart Nitin Gadkari in the crucial Nagpur parliamentary seat. By nominating Thakre, who has also served as the mayor of the town, the Congress is hoping to wrest the Lok Sabha seat, which has traditionally been its stronghold despite being the home city of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological fountainhead of the BJP. Gadkari had clinched the seat by defeating Congress veteran Congress Vilas Muttemwar in 2014.

A similar 'David versus Goliath' contest is being played out in Berhampore, where the TMC has fielded former cricketer and a political greenhorn, Yusuf Pathan, against Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, a five-time MP and veteran in West Bengal politics. The daughter of RJD chief Rohini Acharya is also sailing in the same boat, fielded against sitting BJP MP and ex-Union minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy in Saran. Interestingly, Rudy beat her mother in the same seat in 2014.

GEORGE FERNANDES 1967

Solialist stalwart and former defence minister **George Fernandes** was a trade unionist in Bombay. He was a key member of Janata Dal and the founder of Samata Party. Fernandes made his successful electoral debut from Bombay South in 1967 when he defeated **Sadashiv Kanoji Patil**, a freedom fighter. He served as a minister in the cabinet of Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shashtri and Indira Gandhi

RAJ NARAIN 1977

Raj Narain is the only politician who could defeat **Indira Gandhi** in 1977 in Rae Bareli in elections held soon after the Emergency. The freedom fighter who had filed a case against Gandhi alleging electoral malpractice and violation of the Representation of the People Act. The allegation was that Indira Gandhi used government officers for her election work

AMITABH BACHCHAN 1984

Bollywood megastar **Amitabh Bachchan** contested from Allahabad against Lok Dal veteran **Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna** in 1984. The elections were held soon after the assassination of the then PM Indira Gandhi. The actor registered an emphatic victory with record margin, which still remains unchallenged. A two-time chief minister Uttar Pradesh Bahuguna never fought elections thereafter

SUNIL DUTT 1984

Congress fielded **Sunil Dutt** from Bombay North West seat in 1984. He was pitted against noted lawyer and MP **Ram Jethmalani**, an independent candidate. A political novice and respected actor Dutt also won his first election with a huge margin. After the defeat, Jethmalani joined BJP and later served as the law minister in Vajpayee government in 1996

VYJAYANTIMALA 1984

In 1984, actor **Vyjayantimala** defeated Janata Party's **Era Sezhiyan** in Madras South, a constituency he represented from 1962 to 1977. Seziyan, a seasoned politician, was a well-known Tamil writer. The custodian of Dravidian ideals joined Janata Party after being influenced by the ideologies of the Jayaprakash Narayan during the Emergency. The actor who was trained in classical dance won subsequent elections in 1989 and was nominated to Rajya Sabha in 1993

MAMATA BANERJEE 1984

Marxist stalwart and three-time MP **Somnath Chatterjee** received a shocking defeat at the hand of **Mamata Banerjee** in Jadavpur constituency in 1984. Banerjee was 29-year-old and with the Congress at that time. This was the only occasion when Chatterjee, the former Lok Sabha Speaker, tasted defeat in an election during his illustrious career spanning over four decades

VINOD KHANNA 1997

A heart throb from yesteryears **Vinod Khanna** joined BJP in 1997 and contested Lok Sabha election a year later from Punjab's Gurdaspur. He took on five-time Congress MP **Sukhbans Kaur** and won. She holds the distinction of being the only woman MP in the Lok Sabha for five consecutive times. She had been representing the seat since 1980. Following his victory, Khanna was inducted into the Vajpayee cabinet

GOVINDA 2004

Bollywood star **Govinda** made a blockbuster entry into politics as the Congress candidate when he crushed senior BJP leader **Ram Naik** in Mumbai North seat in 2004. He has made a comeback after 15 years in the electoral arena. He has recently joined Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena in Mumbai

JITENDRA SINGH 2014

Jitendra Singh entered Parliament through Udhampur seat by defeating Congress veteran and former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir **Ghulam Nabi Azad** in 2014. In the last 10 years, the medical practinioner has been incharge of multiple ministries at the Centre, including Science and Technology, North Eastern Region, Department of Space and Department of Atomic Energy, and Prime Minister's Office. Chaudhary Lal Singh of Congress is challenging Singh in this election

SMRITI IRANI 2019

One of the biggest political upheavals in recent years, Union minister **Smriti Irani** defeated former Congress president **Rahul Gandhi** in Amethi in 2019. Earlier, model-actor Irani had unsuccessfully contested from Chandni Chowk against Congress stalwart Kapil Sibal and Amethi against Rahul. She is currently the youngest minister in the Modi cabinet

VIP SECURITY

CRPF grapples with poll-time 'high demand' for personnel

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

GRAPPLING with a high demand for deployment of forces on election duty, CRPF has withdrawn 50 companies from troubled Manipur and decided to relocate its personnel deputed as part of Parliament Duty Group (PDG), besides suspending training modules for its personnel, sources said.

Apart from sending personnel for poll duty, CRPF has the responsibility to provide VIP security cover to an increasing number of personalities.

Lok Sabha polls are scheduled to take place in seven phases from April 19 to June 1. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim will also go for assembly elections.

Sources said despite drawing all the available manpower, CRPF is yet to meet the demand made by the election authorities and also for VIP security.

188 security personnel airlifted to Kishtwar

A total of 188 security personnel were airlifted by three IAF helicopters to snow-bound Marwah and Warwan areas in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district which is part of the Udhampur parliamentary seat, officials said. Udhampur goes to polls in the first phase of the elections on April 19.

PDG, formed in CRPF to protect the Parliament House, is now being removed and in its place CISF personnel are being deployed. "Relieved personnel of PDG will now be shifted to VIP security wing of CRPF. About 1,600 personnel were kept in this special force, having special commando training," a CRPF official said.

Quoting an internal communication, sources said the CRPF has postponed its training sessions and is in process of drawing jawans from its central sports teams. "Also, leaves for specific troops will not be approved barring cases of acute emergency," the official said.

The sources said that for the next two months, the assistant commandant tech course running at Ranchi has been postponed. The assistant commandants, who are undergoing training, will now report to their units for election duties, they added.

Though officials did not reveal the exact number of troops sought by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), they said this time the figure has exceeded the expectations.

It is learnt from the sources that the Election Commission has sought a maximum of 1,020 CAPF companies for West Bengal, followed by 635 in Jammu and Kashmir, which will witness its first Lok Sabha elections after scrapping Article 370.

Besides, 360 companies of CAPFs are sought for deployment in Chhattisgarh; 295 in Bihar; 252 in UP; 250 each in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Jharkhand; 200 each in Gujarat, Manipur, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu; 175 in Odisha; 160 each in Assam and Telangana; 150 in Maharashtra; 113 in Madhya Pradesh; 100 in Tripura; 95 in Haryana and 75 in Arunachal Pradesh, among others.

QUOTE CORNER

Modi criticised the Congress for ceding an island (Katchatheevu) to Sri Lanka in 1974. He should also talk about China's encroachment of Indian territories. The issue was discussed inside and out of Parliament. Modi is not talking about the steps he has taken on the India-China border dispute

Sharad Pawar, NCP (SP) chief

I want to join politics and serve the people. This (Mandi) is not the estate of your (HP minister Vikramaditya Singh) father or grandfather that you will threaten me and send me back. This is the new Bharat of Narendra Modi, where a small, poor boy who used to sell tea is the biggest hero

Kangana Ranaut, Mandi contestant

ELECTION2024

BJD names BJP turncoat as Balasore candidate

BJD president Naveen Patnaik on Thursday nominated Lekhasri Samantasinghar as the party's Balasore Lok Sabha candidate. Samantasinghar recently switched allegiance from the BJP's Odisha unit, the second former BJP vice-president to do so after Bhrugu Baxipatra. With her nomination, BJD has completed its roster for all 21 Lok Sabha seats.

HP civic body president quits BJP to join Congress

The BJP, which was holding the fort in the Hamirpur civic body of Himachal Pradesh, suffered a setback when its president Manoj Minhas, his wife Nisha Minhas and councilor Rajkumar joined the Congress in the presence of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Thursday. This comes as BJP is holding a rally to keep its flock together in the state.

BSP's Lok Sabha member Malook Nagar joins RJD

BSP leader and Lok Sabha member Malook Nagar on Thursday joined the Rashtriya Lok Dal led by Jayant Chaudhary. Nagar, the Lok Sabha member from Bijnor in western Uttar Pradesh, had won the 2019 general polls as a candidate of the BSP, which was then in alliance with the RLD and Samajwadi Party.

MADHYA PRADESH

Oppn leaders only want to take care of their kids' future: Shah

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

ACCUSING the Opposition INDIA bloc to be a 'jamghat' (gathering of corrupt parties and leaders), Union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that scams worth ₹12 lakh crore happened during the 10 years of UPA regime in the country.

"Those who indulged in scams and corruption are now going to jail. Members of the Ghamandiya Gathbandhan (INDIA bloc) are beating their chests. We will ensure that each and every penny of the money meant for poor, Dalits, tribals and backward sections is returned to the poor and the deprived, and every person who siphoned that money is put behind the bars," Shah said at two poll rallies in Madhya Pradesh.

Shah first addressed a rally in support of sixth-time sitting MP and Union minister Faggan Singh Kulaste in Mandla-ST seat and then addressed another in support of the sitting MP in Khajuraho constituency and state BJP chief VD Sharma.

Shah said the total aid granted by the UPA government to Madhya Pradesh in its 10 years was ₹1.99 lakh crore. On the contrary, the Modi regime granted budgetary aid totaling ₹7.74 crore in 10 years, four times more than the UPA, he said.

Hitting out at the INDIA bloc parties, Shah said these all parties are only focused on taking care of their children's future and have no time for shaping the future of country deprived, poor and backward sections.

Knowing well that other backward castes (OBCs) hold key to BJP's poll prospects in MP, Shah said it will be the OBCs whose interests will be damaged the most if the Ghamandiya Gathbandhan (INDIA bloc) got voted to power in the country.

UTTARAKHAND

When bigwigs migrate from hills to plains

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

IN the hills of Uttarakhand, migration of people is the biggest obstacle in its development. Since hundreds of people have shifted to the plains in the last few years, politicians too are gone, leaving their constituencies in the remote hills.

At least six former chief ministers left their parliamentary and assembly constituencies along with other leaders and migrated to the state's plains.

Formed more than 23 years ago as the 27th state of the country, Uttarakhand was supposed to amplify the demand for the representation from the hilly regions in the assembly and Parliament. After the Almora parliamentary seat was reserved in 2009 and the Haridwar seat was generalized, veteran leaders of Almora seat and Garhwal region had moved to Haridwar.

Murli Manohar Joshi, Harish Rawat, Ajay Bhatt and Ramesh Pokhrial Nishank

Bharat Ratna recipient Govind Ballabh Pant, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna and Narayan Dutt Tiwari were the first to start this tradition. BJP veteran Murli Manohar Joshi, Harish Rawat, Bachi Singh Rawat, Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt are also on the list of migrants from the hills.

One of the prominent leaders in the hilly regions, Govind Ballabh Pant originally hailed from Almora district. He practised law in Ranikhet. After independence, in the first Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections in 1951, he contested from Bareilly. Despite being able to contest from Almora or Ranikhet, he became the first UP CM.

Speaking to this newspaper, analyst Anoop Nautiyal said: "Whether we view the migration as a challenging problem or an undeniable reality, the fact is that both leaders and residents have chosen to leave these areas."

He said the trend is due to leaders' predilection to stay in the plains. "It is difficult to garner people's support in remote hilly areas. In the plains, it is easier to chart out one's political career," said Nautiyal.

Historian Jai Singh Rawat said the exodus from the hills has become common, with leaders also descending to the plains out of necessity. "It is a harsh reality. As flies are drawn to honey, individuals too shift to areas of perceived benefits."

EDITORIAL

People from a planet without flowers would think we must be mad with joy the whole time — Iris Murdoch

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

DMK WORKING HARD TO AVOID A REPEAT OF CRUEL SUMMER OF 2011

THE power sector continues to give nightmares to the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu. In 2011, when the party suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the AIADMK, persistent power cuts across the state were blamed as one of the prime reasons. The industrialised state, which has always grappled with power shortages, had somehow managed the show while incurring a huge debt burden. But in the cruel summer of 2011, scheduled power cuts of up to three hours and frequent unscheduled outages during the election season sealed the DMK's fate. While many stalwarts floundered, M K Stalin, then the deputy chief minister, won with a narrow margin of 2,800 votes from Kolathur.

This summer is unforgiving too. But the ruling DMK is not leaving any stones unturned. Tangedco, the loss-making state power utility, has the unenviable task of ensuring a steady supply without burning a big hole in its kitty. The state has apparently recorded a 50 percent drop in hydropower generation in 2023-24 from the previous year. The state-owned hydropower plants produced a little over 3,000 million units in 2023-24, making it the lowest output in seven years. Lack of water from Karnataka and scanty rainfall in the western districts, where most of the hydropower plants are located, have created the mess. For Tangedco, which pays over ₹13,000 crore a year in interest on loans, the drop in production is indeed crucial.

Since the demand has shot up, the company has been scrambling to lap up electricity from outside the state. In anticipation of a further spike in demand, the utility has signed power purchase agreements with private players to procure about 4,500 MW up to May. For the four months between February and May, Tangedco's power purchase cost has hit a record high of ₹4,600 crore, almost twice the ₹2,400 crore spent during the same period last year.

While Tangedco is yet to finalise the accounts, its power procurement cost for 2023-24 is projected to reach ₹65,000 crore. There is only one way electricity consumption will go in the coming weeks, possibly forcing the company to shell out even more this fiscal. The move to restart the practice of collecting security deposits after a gap of two years may not bode well with the state's domestic consumers. But Tangedco may not have too many options at hand.

ANDHRA SIDES FACE DISPIRITED CADRES

THE ruling YSRC and the opposition alliance of TDP, Jana Sena and BJP have a real problem on their hands. With Andhra Pradesh going into assembly and Lok Sabha polls simultaneously, the stakes are much higher for everyone. The logic behind the TDP and Jana Sena partnering with the BJP is sound—they want Narendra Modi's credibility to add that extra bit of zing to their campaign. But any strategy can be termed successful only if it works on the ground. Going by what is unfolding ever since seat-sharing was announced, it would take a lot of doing to ensure a seamless translation to vote-sharing.

A substantial number of Jana Sena and BJP leaders and cadre are unhappy with the 31 assembly and eight Lok Sabha seats they have been allotted. Several saffron leaders are seething that out of the six Lok Sabha seats the party is contesting, quite a few have been given to those who migrated from the TDP. Similar is the complaint of Jana Sena. Prominent state BJP leaders are missing in action, in contrast to Telangana where their counterparts are active. In private, many admit that their party leadership has displayed a weak hand in bargaining.

In the case of Jana Sena, quite a few have left the party and many of the remaining are fuming over being 'short-changed' by the TDP. Pawan Kalyan appeared stronger when TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu was behind bars, but then committed what his aides say is a blunder—he agreed to the alliance right outside the jail, without first holding talks on seat-sharing. Adding insult to injury, the anticipated number of seats came down from at least 40 to a meagre 21. That even Pawan himself had to cajole a TDP leader to help him win is seen as a big climbdown for a superstar.

For the YSRC, the problem is of a different kind. Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is heavily banking on the goodwill of the 2.6 lakh volunteers he recruited for the smooth delivery of schemes instead of his party cadre. Many YSRC leaders are displeased with the way the volunteer system has diminished their clout. Ground reports suggest their cadre are not as active as TDP workers are. How the two sides deal with these issues will impact the outcome of the polls.

QUICK TAKE

FUSING MINDS & RESOURCES

THE US and Japan have announced a partnership to accelerate the commercialisation of nuclear fusion. For decades, scientists have been trying to harness fusion, the kind of nuclear reaction that powers the sun, to provide carbon-free electricity. Now, some of the world's research powerhouses will fuse efforts to make it possible. There are two lessons for India. We must heed the benefits of fusion before betting too heavily on the hazardous fission, for which we are planning to build 18 more reactors by 2032. And we can learn from the collaborative model of putting cross-border universities, labs and private firms together to provide a game-changing solution.

A year that began with three prime ministers of Indian descent in Europe is likely to end with none. It's perhaps time to indulge in a few hypothetical scenarios

LEADERS WITHOUT BORDERS: IDEA WHOSE TIME MAY HAVE COME

SHASHI THAROOR

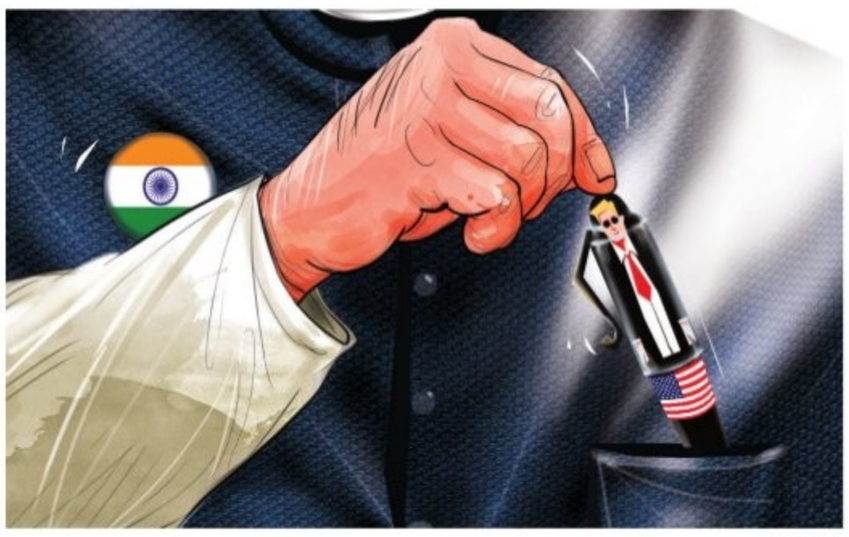
Third-term Lok Sabha MP from Thiruvananthapuram and Sahitya Akademi winning author of 24 books, most recently *Ambedkar: A Life*

THE recent resignation of the prime minister of Portugal, António Costa, occasioned a number of chagrined headlines in India along the lines of '*Goan-origin prime minister quits*'. Costa's origins in our coastal state of Goa—a former for us, and the recipient of a Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, the highest Indian honour for foreign citizens of Indian descent for being the first Indian head of a European government. Now he was gone.

This sad news was followed by the shock resignation of 45-year-old Leo Varadkar, the son of an Indian immigrant, as prime minister of Ireland, "for personal and political reasons". When Varadkar, then just 38 years old, became prime minister of Ireland in 2017, it was hailed in India as if it represented some sort of national triumph. "See—one of our boys has become their leader," a Mumbaikar friend told me with great pride. I was impolite enough to remind him that he had opposed the election of Sonia Gandhi as prime minister of India on the very same grounds that he was hailing Varadkar's anointment. "That's different," he replied lamely, before changing the subject with a crestfallen look on his face.

Most recently, the rise of Rishi Sunak as the prime minister of the United Kingdom has been widely celebrated in India, even by those who do not share his conservative brand of politics. But there, too, an election in the second half of this year is widely expected, and at least judging by the polls, to be likely to end his stint at 10 Downing Street.

A year that began with three prominent prime ministers of Indian descent in Europe is likely to end with none.



SOURAV ROY

Most Indians will experience a sense of regret. Varadkar overcame what would once have been impossible odds to rise to the top. A generation ago, he would have been seen as too young, too "different" (he is gay), and too brown to aspire to head a Western democracy. His name marked him out, too, as foreign. And yet his victory showed how much the world had moved on from those sorts of prejudices, even while other tendencies suggested that xenophobia was on the rise.

And yet, was this such a new development in the world, after all? The founding premier of the Irish Republic was a man of Portuguese descent, Éamonn Da Valera. And he was hardly a rarity in Europe, where France has had a president named MacMahon in the 19th century, and another named Sarkozy, son of a Hungarian count, more recently. Indeed, national identity in Europe has long been rather fluid—the current dynasty of English monarchs hailed from Germany and the Swedish ones from France. The French and the Germans have fought innumerable wars with each other for centuries, but just over a decade ago the French had a finance minister with the German name Strauss-Kahn, while his German counterpart bore the French name Lafontaine.

The election of Barack Hussein Obama in 2008—the son of a Kenyan immigrant with what he cheerfully admitted was a "funny name", as well as a Muslim middle name—showed American broadmindedness at its best. After all, it was impossible to imagine a non-Japanese prime minister in Tokyo, or a non-Chinese in Beijing. And yet America was hardly a global pioneer; Argentina had elected the son of a Syrian immigrant, Carlos Saul Menem, as president, and Peru had done the same with Alberto Fujimori, whose parents were Japanese, though both are overwhelmingly white-majority nations. In Jamaica, Edward Seaga, the son of a Lebanese immigrant, was elected prime minister in a country 97 percent black, while Janet Jagan, a white Jewish American woman, became president of Guyana, whose population consists entirely of either blacks or Indians.

So why, indeed, shouldn't political talent be hired across national borders? Multinational corporations do it all the time and everyone applauds. Indians rejoice that seven major MNCs are headed by Indians who left our country to make good abroad.

Mediaeval kings hired their warriors where they could—Indian armies, well before the colonial era, had Turkish artillery gunners, Uzbek horsemen and French generals, and no one found it odd. It's only more recently that we have expected our leaders to conform to a national identity stereotype.

But that could be breaking. In 2015, the outgoing president of Georgia (2004-2013), Mikheil Saakashvili, denied a third term by his country's Constitution, decided he could not merely languish in retirement when he was not yet 50. So he switched countries, adopting Ukrainian citizenship and taking on the governorship of the Oblast (province) of Odessa. After a successful first year, he ran into trouble in his second and resigned. But he's only 54 now, and someone might want to suggest he try, for example, Bihar next.

When Libya's late dictator, Muammar al-Gaddafi, promoted a union with Egypt (under the name of the United Arab Republic, or UAR) in the 1970s, he indiscreetly said that his idea came from the fact that Egypt had people but no real leader, whereas Libya had a leader but no real people. The Egyptian authorities naturally balked at a merger on such assumptions, and the UAR died stillborn.

But the precedent Saakashvili has set could well apply to more consensually successful figures like Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew, who never got to apply his vision and self-discipline to a bigger country than his tiny city-state. The number of admirers of Singapore on Indian WhatsApp groups suggests that he would have been welcome to many here.

The logic would work even better today. Imagine if, say, Barack Obama, unemployed since turning 53, were to be recruited to run Britain after the shambolic shenanigans around its bizarre Brexit? Or if those of China's fearsome technocrats, who (unlike their supreme leader, Xi Jinping), are obliged to retire from office by their party's rigid 10-year rule, were invited perhaps to sort out Pakistan? The possibilities boggle the mind.

(Views are personal)
(office@tharoor.in)

WHY THE CAPTAIN NEEDS TO BE HUMBLE WITH THE RANKS

R GOPALAKRISHNAN

Author and business commentator; his new book is *Embrace the Future: The Soft Science of Business Transformation*

IT is easy to advise a future leader to develop humility, but how should a leader develop humility? It is not easy. The reader could watch Nestle Chairman Suresh Narayan's television interview with Shireen Bhan on his three Is of *Inayat*, *Ibadat*, *Insaniyat*. From my many years of observation and reflection, I have found some ideas to be helpful.

The general perception of and pedagogy on leadership suggest that humility and leadership do not sit well together, though humble leadership is touted as an essential feature of the 'Tomorrow Leader'. This is not true in my experience.

Humility as a mindset

Power is an asset to be sensibly deployed. Humility is a mindset. A leader is bestowed with power to use it for some larger purpose. Humility is a mindset that requires three intrinsic beliefs—that the leader is not smarter than those who are around him or her, that it is possible for the leader to be wrong, and that vulnerability may be a leadership virtue.

Look at nations and companies. Try to identify political or corporate leaders who display a humble mindset. Don't be disappointed if your list is miserably small.

Leadership is remembered by others for kindness and affection, and for taking genuine interest in others. I term this as 'great relationship leadership', which is as important as 'great decisive leadership.'

Since the leader is constantly exercising authority that is derived from power, he or she is most likely unaware of the occasions when narcissism or inadvertent offence has crept into his or her behaviour. That is why the leader needs a 'psychological mirror' that reflects back the images of his or her narcissistic behaviour.

I brand this psychological mirror as 'Clementine Mirror', so named after Clementine, Winston Churchill's wife. There are some stories that adduce to the calming effect she had on her temperamental and irascible husband. This surely helps a leader improve behaviour and build more durable relationships at work.

Say sorry and move on

Learn from acts of humility by great leaders. Here is a story of yesteryear that Harish Bhat, the former Tata brand custodian, narrated in a social media post, Short Tata Stories.

When JRD Tata was the chairman of Tata Sons, one of the key members of his leadership team was Sumant Moolgaokar, who led Tata Motors (then called TELCO). They met once a week to discuss various issues. During one such weekly meeting, Moolgaokar disagreed with JRD Tata on an important matter. In fact, he expressed his strong reservations about a particular point of view that JRD expressed. When this happened, JRD lost his temper at Moolgaokar, and said a few harsh words.

TATA SONS

> JRD Tata led Tata Sons with great humility. There are many stories of him showing this softer side, from apologising unprompted for losing his temper to working around differences with employees. Some of his letters are part of Indian corporate history now

Moolgaokar went away distraught that JRD was not appreciating his point of view. "What is the use? Jeh does not understand," he said to one of his colleagues. A few days later, JRD Tata, of his own accord, went across to Sumant Moolgaokar's office. He spoke to Moolgaokar at length, to understand and discuss his dissenting point of view. Then, he sent Moolgaokar an extraordinary handwritten letter, expressing his deep regret for having lost his temper. A copy of this letter is reproduced below. It said, "Dear Sumant, I apologise for my outburst. I have been under great pressure at home and on my trip to Jamshedpur, and am a bit of an insomniac to boot. So, I am unduly sensitive and was hurt by your criticism that I know was well meant. My affection and admiration for you will never change. Yours ever, Jeh."

Among the many Tata stories, one pertains to an incident involving group chairman JRD Tata and senior Tata director A D Shroff in the early 1950s (from *Six Lenses*, 2015).

The incident involved a heated exchange between JRD and Shroff during a board meeting of Tata Sons. It appears JRD referred to a view expressed by Shroff as 'a dishonest opinion'. Shroff felt offended that he had been referred to as being dishonest. The incident threatened the continuation of his association with Tata.

A D Shroff sent in his resignation but the matter was patched up by JRD with a great sense of egalitarianism and humility. This is what he wrote in a letter to Shroff dated August 23, 1951: "I was surprised and upset at receiving your letter. I do not remember exactly the words I used during the somewhat heated exchange at the meeting, but my complaint to you was merely that an argument you used to score a debating point over me was not an honest one. That is surely a far cry from questioning your honesty and I am surprised that you interpreted it in that way. You have a right to resent my speaking angrily or showing you discourtesy as a result, and for that I sincerely apologise, but if friends and associates decided to part every time they had an argument, life would become very difficult. You refer to my firm. Except that I am personally a relatively minor shareholder. I don't think there is any difference on that account in any of us. We all work for it and we should think of it as our firm. The trouble with both of us is that we both have a hell of a temper!"

Shroff did not press his resignation. In fact, he served Tata thereafter in his old spirit of trust. Authenticity is the currency one uses to generate trust. Learning to develop and exhibit humble leadership is worthwhile.

(Views are personal)
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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Unemployment data

Ref: *Opposition doesn't have any reliable data on joblessness* (Apr 11). One would like to know whether the government itself has authentic data on unemployment in India. Unless educational institutions and the job market work in tandem, the problem of educated unemployment, which is assuming alarming proportions in the country, cannot be mitigated.
S Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

Unrelated answers

In her interview with *TNIE*, the finance minister avoided tough questions and replied with something else. When asked about criminals getting relief after joining the BJP, she said the relief was given by the court. Were the courts waiting for them to join the BJP before taking action? She said the allocation of funds to states were not the business of the central government but of the Finance Commision. Is the Finance Commission above the government?
V O Harindranathan, email

Death chambers

Ref: *Cap defunct borewells to save children's lives* (Apr 11). Borewells left uncapped are death chambers camouflaged with human apathy. Such criminal negligence surfaces only after an accident traps an innocent child. Recurrence of such inhuman neglect indicates that both punishment and awareness of the problem are not as extensive as it should be.
Sachidananda Satpathy, Sambalpur

Regular checks

The authorities seem to have a lethargic attitude in covering borewells. If an accident happens, they wake up from their sleep and try to save the baby. Proper instructions must be given to landowners and periodical visits must be done by the concerned officers.
S Chockalingam, Kottaram

Climate accountability

The SC has expanded the scope of fundamental rights to include "the right to be free from adverse effects of climate change". This highlights the responsibility of the nation to mitigate climate change. The judiciary is taking proactive steps to hold governments accountable for their actions in addressing climate change.
Vishal Mayur, Bengaluru

Other defaulters

Ref: *SC junks Ramdev apology, roasts Uttarakhand govt* (Apr 11). The SC's ruthless handling of the Patanjali case is a pointer to the government to set right the medical ecosystem flooded with fake medicines, misleading claims and unqualified experts. Regulations have to be effectively enforced.
Rajarao Kumar, email

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
Modi govt the most corrupt in the history of India. The legalisation of political corruption through EC has opened the floodgates for such money laundering.

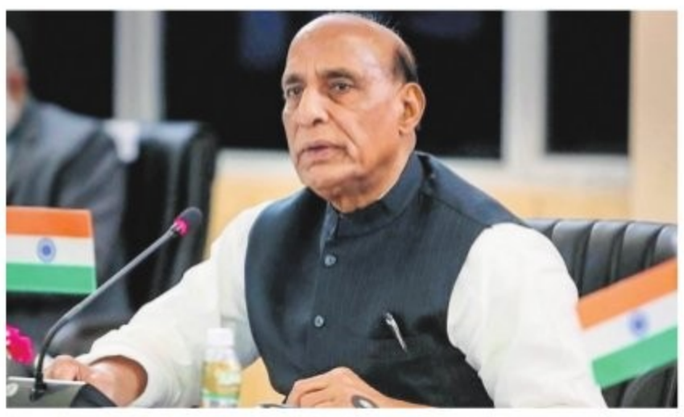
Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
The media tries to hide the 'matter of issues' by showing 'Modi's talk' so that the truth about the BJP government does not come before the public.

Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda
PM's ability to connect with all age groups is truly inspiring. During this busy election time, he takes the time to engage with youngsters.

India keen to help Pak curb terror

Rajnath Singh says will not allow terrorists to operate within its borders, warns Islamabad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi



DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday offered India's assistance to Pakistan in combating terrorism within their country.

In an interview with the news agency ANI, Rajnath Singh said India will not allow terrorists to operate within its borders and warned Islamabad of consequences if it tried to destabilise India.

The Defence Minister said, "If Pakistan thinks that it is not capable of controlling it, if they feel they are not capable, then India is a neighbour, if they want to take India's help, they should. India is ready to provide all assistance to combat terrorism."

"They are our neighbours, and if their intention is clear that terrorism should end, they should do that themselves or take help from India...we both can end terrorism. But this is their call, I am just giving a suggestion," the minister said.

"We won't allow terrorists to operate within Indian borders. We will do everything to stop it. India will do everything to combat terrorism," he added.

Rajnath's remarks come close to his comments made a few days ago saying that India would enter Pakistan if terrorists ran away to the neighbouring nation after carrying out terror strikes in the country.

"If they run away to Pakistan, we will enter Pakistan to kill them," Singh had told a news channel.

He fielded a question on the report published in The Guardian claiming that the Indian intelligence agencies were behind the killings of people associated with the terrorist organisations or radical groups.

"India always wants to maintain good relations with its neighbouring countries ... But if anyone shows India the angry eyes again and again, comes to India and tries to promote terrorist activities, we will not spare them," Singh said.

However, the Ministry of External Affairs quoted S Jaishankar's earlier statement asserting that targeted killings in other countries were "not the government of India's policy".

The relations between India and Pakistan declined after the 2019 Pulwama suicide attack that was carried out on a CRPF convoy. With the links of the attack traced to Pakistan, India had carried out airstrikes on Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) training camp in Balakot.

Since then, a number of people having terror links have been killed in Pakistan under mysterious circumstances.

The US, in response to allegations made by Pakistan accusing the Indian government of orchestrating the assassination of several individuals across the border, stated its position of non-interference in the matter. However, the US also emphasised the importance of both sides refraining from actions that could escalate tensions.

US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said: "We have been following the media reports about...We don't have any comment on the underlying allegations, but of course, we're not going to get in the middle of this situation," Miller said. "We encourage both sides to avoid escalation and find a resolution through dialogue," he added.

Rural job demand nails FM's claim on employment: Cong

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

IN a sharp attack on Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman on unemployment, the Congress on Thursday said the "steady rise" in the demand for MGNREGA scheme bursts the FM's claims on unemployment and job creation in the country.

The Congress reaction came a day after Sitharaman's interview with this newspaper, where she said that the Opposition was attacking the government on unemployment "without any reliable data."

Speaking to this newspaper, Congress leader and a key member of the manifesto committee **Praveen Chakravarty** said the party has cited the data from World Bank and other credible universities and the rising demand for NREGA jobs tell the story of unemployment in India. "The FM said that the Opposition doesn't have reliable data to claim unemployment. However, data from the World Bank and other universities say that 42% of graduates are unemployed. This data is not from the Congress party," Chakravarty said.

The FM said that the Opposition doesn't have reliable data to claim unemployment. However, data from the World Bank and other universities say that 42% of graduates are unemployed

Praveen Chakravarty, Congress leader

"The FM also admits that the government does not have the data. Then she should take data provided by the 'State of Working India 2023' report by Azim Premji University which pegs the unemployment rate at 42%," said the Congress leader. The studies by the World Bank also say that India's unemployment is at a higher level. These are all independent, credible institutions, he added.

As per government's own data, NREGA demand for jobs is at the highest level.

The FM claimed that the informal sector base and the gig economy has grown exponentially since the BJP came to power in 2014,but there is inadequate data to prove it.

However, Chakravarty contested the claim. "These surveys have data from both formal and informal sectors. If people had jobs, why is the NREGA demand the highest ever? People go to work in the sun for bare minimum wages only when there is no other work," he said.

Responding to Sitaraman's barbs on Congress manifesto' promise on single-slab GST, Chakravarty said that the minister was totally wrong on GST. "Vijay Kelkar, who first proposed GST when he was finance secretary, said that GST should be simplified, and we should have a single rate. So our proposal categorically says GST will be a single rate with merit rate and a demerit rate."

Sound, stable ties will serve common interests of Beijing, Delhi, says China

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

RESPONDING to comments made on India and China by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an interview given to Newsweek, China on Thursday said that "sound and stable" ties serve the common interests of Beijing and New Delhi.

PM Modi had said that ties with Beijing are important and the "prolonged situation" at the borders should be addressed urgently. Modi also expressed hope that through positive and constructive bilateral engagement at the diplomatic and military levels, the two countries will be able to restore and sustain peace and tranquility at their borders.

"We believe that sound and stable China-India relations serve the common interests of both sides and are conducive to peace and development of the region and beyond," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said in Beijing.

PM Modi had said, "It is my belief that we need to urgently address the prolonged situation on our borders so that the abnormality in our bilateral interactions can be put behind us. Stable and peaceful relations between India and China are important for not just our two countries but the entire region and world."

Meanwhile, spokesperson Mao Ning said the boundary question does not represent the entirety of the India-China relations. "It should be placed appropriately in the bilateral relations and managed properly. India and China are in close communication through diplomatic and military channels," the spokesperson added.

"We hope India will work in the same direction with China, handle the bilateral relations from the strategic heights and long-term perspective, enhance mutual trust, stick to dialogue and cooperation, handle differences properly, and put the bilateral relations forward on sound and stable track," she said.

The relations between India and China deteriorated in 2020 after the People's Liberation Army (PLA) advanced into areas claimed by New Delhi. In June of that year, a violent clash, the deadliest confrontation between India and China in over four decades, in Galwan further ruptured the ties.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh criticised China for renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh, and wondered whether a similar attempt by India will result in those areas of the neighbouring country becoming "parts of our territory".

Govt gives priority to country's security: Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said that the Centre decided to fence the Indo-Myanmar border and end the Free Movement Regime (FMR) because the government gives top priority to the country's security. The situation in Myanmar is very difficult as the authority of the government does not work, he said after releasing the BJP manifesto in Aizawl. "We are sensitive to relationships across the border but the condition in Myanmar is very difficult. We are taking precautions as the neighbourhood is going through a difficult stage," Jaishankar said.

PM interacts with top Indian gamers on issues, opportunities

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday interacted with top Indian gamers on a range of issues and emerging opportunities in the industry. BJP IT chief Amit Malviya said that the PM also played PC and VR games with the gamers. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a 'gaming interaction' and played PC and VR games with top Indian gamers like Tirth Mehta, Payal Dhare, Animesh Agarwal, Anshu Bisht, Naman Mathur, Mithilesh Patankar, Ganesh Gangadhar," Malviya said in a post on X.

Malviya said that they discussed the 'new developments' in the gaming industry and how the Modi government has recognised the creativity of the gamers promoting the gaming industry in India.

They also engaged on issues concerning gambling v/s gaming while discussing women participation in the gaming industry, the BJP leader added.

Animesh Aggarwal shared his experience and said, "Engaging in a fruitful conversation with the PM about the future of E-sports was enlightening". He is the CEO at 8BIT Creatives and associated with monster gaming like digital gaming platform.

Won't tolerate distortion of facts via social media comments, says SC

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

EXPRESSING its displeasure over the way the social media was being misused to make comments on pending cases, the Supreme Court has said that it will not tolerate distortion of facts.

A two-judge bench of Justice Aniruddha Bose and Justice Bela M Trivedi made these observation, while hearing a contempt plea filed by Aminul Haque Laskar, who is now part of the Congress (INC), against All India United Democratic leader and Assam MLA Karim Uddin Barbhuiya. Justice Bose retired on Wednesday.

The apex court also asked Barbhuiya to respond to the contempt case filed against him by Laskar. "Court's shoulders were broad enough to deal with criticism. It is a matter of serious concern that now-a-days there has been a profuse misuse of social media platforms on which the messages, comments, articles etc. are being posted in respect

of the matters pending in the Court," the bench noted.

The court also pointed out that posts on social media platforms under the guise of right to freedom of speech and expression, which have the tendency of undermining the authority of the courts or of interfering with the course of justice, deserves serious consideration.

Laskar in his contempt petition said that the AIUDF leader had uploaded a post on March 20 on Facebook claiming that he (Barbhuiya) had won a case, at a stage when the top court had only reserved its judgment in the matter.

Questioning the posts on social media with respect to pending cases, the court took said, "It was very usual that the judges do react during the course of the arguments being made by the lawyers, sometimes in favour and sometimes against a party to the proceeding. But that did not give any right to either of the parties or their lawyers to post comments or messages on the social media distorting the facts or not disclosing the correct facts of the proceedings."

The court said such conduct needs to be taken up extremely seriously when parties attempt to interfere with pending proceedings and prejudice the administration of justice. SC fixed the matter for further hearing after four weeks.

The SC ordered that a copy of the court's order should be sent to the AG of India.

ALSO IN TOP COURT

SC stays NBW issued against cleric Tauqeer

In a relief to prominent Muslim cleric, Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan, the Supreme Court has granted an interim stay on the execution of the non-bailable warrant issued against him in the 2010 Bareilly communal riots case. On March 2, 2010, riots broke out in the UP over a religious procession route. Many were injured and shops and vehicles burned. "Issue notice limited to the impugned order having been passed without assigning any reason. In the meanwhile, there shall be stay of operation of the impugned order," it said.

SC to hear plea on Lyngdoh panel report

The Supreme Court will hear on July 23 a plea challenging a recommendation by the Lyngdoh Committee which stipulates that a candidate cannot contest more than once for the post of an office bearer of a students' union. The plea came up for hearing on Wednesday before a bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V Viswanathan. "Counsel for the respondent(s) seeks and is granted four weeks' time to file the counter affidavit, if so required. Post the matter on July 23," the bench said in its April 10 order.

Reduce private school education cost, prescribe NCRT textbooks: NCPCR

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has directed all states to reduce the cost of education in private schools and to prescribe books only by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) at the elementary level.

In a letter to all principal secretaries/secretaries of school education, NCPCR Chairperson, Priyank Kanoongo said that the repeated recurrence of schools prescribing books published by private publishers suggests a 'clear disregard for children's right to quality education and the RTE Act, 2009.'

It added that no child should be discriminated against, harassed or neglected by schools for carrying books published/prescribed by the NCERT, causing 'mental or physical suffering'. The NCPCR chief also asked the states to submit the compliance report within 30 days of the issue of the letter.

The NCPCR said that the implementation of Section 29 of the Right to Education Act, 2009, which gives children the right to equal quality education, should be uniformity in the curriculum in all schools under RTE Act, 2009 and quality education for all children."

We have received complaints pan-India from parents that private schools are harassing and forcing them to buy books from private publications, which are very costly. Private schools are extorting money from parents

Priyank Kanoongo, NCPCR Chairperson

It further said that the states should reduce the cost of education in private schools so that only prescribed books by the NCERT/ State Council of Educational Research and Training (CERT) are followed at the elementary level. Kanoongo also stressed reducing the weight of school bags.

"If any school follows and forces the children to study textbooks for elementary classes other than prescribed by NCERT or respective SCERT, it shall amount to a violation of the RTE Act, 2009," he said.

The letter added that such directions issued by the state shall displayed on their department website. "The schools are directed to display the directions on schools' website and notice board," it said, adding that a copy of directions is circulated and disseminated by the schools among parents.

Kanoongo said that schools are "extorting money" to sell books by private publishers.

"We have received complaints pan-India from parents that private schools are harassing and forcing them to buy books from private publications, which are very costly. Private schools are extorting money from parents," Kanoongo told this paper.

33K deaths in India in '19 linked to heatstroke

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

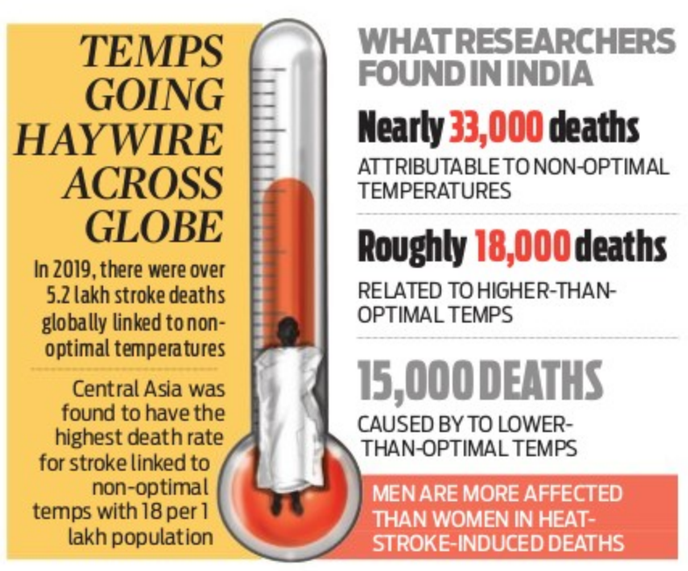
A study shows India is among top South Asian countries in the list of heat-related deaths and disability in 2019. Cases related to heatstroke-induced deaths and disabilities are linked to temperature changes driven by climate change globally. However, men are more affected than women.

In India, there were nearly 33,000 deaths from stroke attributable to non-optimal temperatures, 55% of which (roughly 18,000) were attributable to higher-than-optimal temperatures and 45% (roughly 15,000) to lower-than-optimal temperatures, the researchers found.

Non-optimal temperatures are defined as the location-specific above (high temperature) or below (low temperature).

In 2019, there were over 5.2 lakh stroke deaths linked to non-optimal temperatures, the study, published in the journal Neurology, found.

The study is contained in 'Burden of Stroke Attributable to Nonoptimal Temperature in 204 Countries and Territories – A Population-Based Study, 1990-2019.' It analyses different types of stroke burden attributable to climatic conditions.


TEMPS GOING HAYWIRE ACROSS GLOBE
In 2019, there were over 5.2 lakh stroke deaths globally linked to non-optimal temperatures
Central Asia was found to have the highest death rate for stroke linked to non-optimal temps with 18 per 1 lakh population
WHAT RESEARCHERS FOUND IN INDIA
Nearly 33,000 deaths
ATTRIBUTABLE TO NON-OPTIMAL TEMPERATURES
Roughly 18,000 deaths
RELATED TO HIGHER-THAN-OPTIMAL TEMPS
15,000 DEATHS
CAUSED BY TO LOWER-THAN-OPTIMAL TEMPS
MEN ARE MORE AFFECTED THAN WOMEN IN HEAT-STROKE-INDUCED DEATHS

While the majority of these stroke deaths were due to lower than optimal temperatures, researchers also found that number of deaths from stroke linked to higher than optimal temperatures increased, when compared with 1990. They associated optimal temperatures with the lowest death rates.

The burden of stroke "due to high temperature has increased rapidly, especially among people aged older than 10 years, and was disproportionately concentrated in low Socio-demographic Index (SDI) regions such as Africa," researchers wrote in the study.

"Dramatic temperature changes in past have affected human health and caused widespread concern," study author Quan Cheng of Xiangya Hospital Central South University in Changsha, China, said. The researchers said that ageing too was a key factor in the increase in burden of stroke attributable to temperature changes.

The team further found that the death rates from stroke due to non-optimal temperatures were higher in men at 7.7 per 1 lakh population, compared to women at 5.9 per 1 lakh population. Regionally, central Asia was found to have the highest death rate for stroke linked to non-optimal temperatures with 18 per 1 lakh population.

The team said more research was needed to determine how temperature changes impact stroke and to target solutions to address health inequalities.

"Future research should aim to reduce this threat by finding effective health policies that address potential causes of climate change," said Cheng.

Meanwhile, amid reports of a strong rise in heat wave, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting with experts on the preparations to tackle the emerging situation. The PM has directed the concerned authorities to adopt the whole of the government's approach in a coordinated way with all associated wings and departments.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

DECODE LS POLLS '24

DECIDE

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	26	Mumbai	33	26
Bhopal	32	22	Panaji	32	26
Jaipur	37	25	Patna	38	24
Amritsar	35	20	Lucknow	38	22
Chennai	33	29	Port Blair	32	27
Kolkata	34	26	Imphal	32	19
Srinagar	19	09	Chandigarh	36	19

VIOLENCE ERUPTED IN MANIPUR IN MAY LAST YEAR AND THE WOUNDS ARE YET TO HEAL AS THE SOCIETY STILL REMAINS SHARPLY DIVIDED

Festival of democracy under the shadow of ethnic conflict

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Imphal

LAMBAH Touthang will not cast her vote, for she has realised after the bout of ethnic violence in Manipur that elections have no meaning for her and fellow Kuki-Zo tribals.

The woman from Utangpokpi in the hill district of Chandel is one of the near 400 displaced people taking shelter at the Youth Hostel Relief Camp in Kuki-majority Churachandpur town. The district — Kukis prefer to call it Lamka — that goes by the same name falls under the Outer Manipur parliamentary seat, which is reserved for Scheduled Tribes.

Given the conflict, resultant sufferings of people and division of the state on ethnic lines, Touthang (32) believes a "separate administration" for the Kuki-Zo tribals is the only way out. "Elections have no meaning for us. We voted in the past hoping that the government will improve the condition of our lives. But as it didn't do what it had promised, we are suffering," the woman says, visibly uncertain of her future.

The distraught family of four — including husband and two children — is lodged at the camp. She earns some money by making and selling bamboo-based handicraft products. The members of the family fled their village just days before their house was burned down.

"Our votes should settle our future but there will be no harmony between Kukis and Meiteis within the territorial jurisdiction of Manipur. Separate administration for the Kukis will be the only solution," she says as children were playing at the camp. Lhaineilam, also from Utangpokpi and a fellow inmate, says she will not vote as a mark of protest.

ASSEMBLY SEGMENTS
TOTAL 28
20 Hills : 08 Valley

OUTER MANIPUR
MANIPUR
Churachandpur falls under the parliamentary constituencies, which is reserved for Scheduled Tribes

BJP is not contesting the seat, opting to support ally NPF | The contest in this constituency has always been multi-cornered

BJP never won the seat since contesting for the first time in 1991. The best it managed was **34%** of votes in 2019, second to NPF with **42%** of votes.

Congress last won the seat in 2014, its candidate Thangso Baite garnered **39%** of the votes, down from **45%** in 2009. The party finished third in 2019 behind NPF and BJP with **18%** of votes

Four candidates are in the fray for the elections spread over two phases on April 19 and April 26

Kachui Timothy Zimik	NPF
Alfred K Arthur	Congress
S Kho John	Independent
Alyson Abonmai	Independent

Elections held since 1952: **17**

Naga candidates who won: **7 (10 times)**

Kuki-Zo candidates who won: **5 (7 times)**

Congress won the highest number of times **(10)**

The last election with a maximum of four candidates was in 2009

Elections have no meaning for us. Government didn't do what it promised, we are suffering
A displaced Kuki

Battlelines drawn, but poll fever at a point frozen in time

'Tight security, multiple checkposts'

Within a few hundred metres from the police check post, there were seven other check posts – some 20-30 metres apart. The police personnel saw us showing our identity cards at the last gate, yet they asked for the same when we reached them. They had similar queries – where we are from, where we are travelling to and why. This was followed by the frisking of the vehicle.

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Imphal

BURNT and damaged houses on either side of a national highway stand in sordid testimony to the bloody ethnic conflict that unfolded in Manipur in May 2023. The incidents of arson, gunfights and killings have stopped but the fear of the return of violence is far from over. There is uneasy calm and I got a sense of it right after crossing Moirang, 45 km south of state capital Imphal, home to the Meiteis.

This arterial road leads to Churachandpur, the Kuki heartland. Few vehicles and people were on the road. However, some young and unarmed members of a Meitei radical group were seen on an open jeep by the roadside, talking to one another. They were wearing the ou fit's attire. I could see the movement of people, albeit only a few of them, at Kwakta, which is eight km away from Moirang.

Kwakta is a Meitei Pangal (Meitei Muslim) village, located less than 2.5 km short of Kangvai. The Meitei Pangals had remained neutral during the violence, yet they bore the brunt of it. A mosque at Kwakta had come under an attack during a gufight. As I was heading towards Kangvai, which somewhat separates the Imphal Valley from Churachandpur, I could feel an eerie silence.

The hills in the vicinity on either side come under Churachandpur district. The paddy fields stretching towards the corrugated hills are all empty. The land is tilled by Meitei farmers. There have been several incidents during the conflict when they were fired upon by the miscreants.

At Kangvai, our vehicle was intercepted by a policeman. He asked us where we were heading to. I showed my identity card and answered his queries. The cop asked my driver, a Meitei Pangal, to share his details at the check post. There, he was given a two-digit secret number and asked to share it following return so they know this vehicle had passed through the road earlier in the day.

Within a few hundred metres from the police check post, there were seven other check posts – some 20-30 metres apart. The personnel saw us showing our identity cards at the last gate, yet they asked for the same when we reached them. They had similar queries – where we are from, where we are travelling to and why. This was followed by the frisking of the vehicle.These posts are manned by the personnel of Army, Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Central Reserve Police Force. Several vehicles of the personnel were seen parked by the roadside in a row. At one place, a vehicle was seen blocking the road partially. At every check post, there is a barricade. You will be allowed to go further only if the personnel are convinced. When I asked a jawan about the multi-layer security, he said it was done to prevent the miscreants from either side from engaging in violence.

"Most houses here were attacked and burnt down. It was horrific," the jawan says. "Things have normalised now but we are not taking any chances. We hope the election passes off peacefully," he adds. As per 2011 census, Kangvai had a population of 939. Both Meiteis and Kukis lived here. It is where the violence had broken out. Most residents have abandoned the lage.

FIELD DAY FOR 'DREAM GIRL'

Actor and BJP candidate Hema Malini spends time with women farmers at wheat field on Thursday. She is contesting from Mathura, Uttar Pradesh | PTI

RAJASTHAN

Rahul tries to corner govt on jobs, GST

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

OUT in the Jat belt and farmers' hub under the scorching sun of Rajasthan's Falodi (Jodhpur) and Anupgarh in Ganganagar, Rahul Gandhi on Thursday took on the government over rising unemployment and spiraling prices of essentials across the nation to highlight the daunting economic realities in his inaugural public rallies for Lok Sabha polls.

He asserted only the INDIA bloc stood as the sole alternative capable of protecting people's livelihoods.

The Congress leader found unemployment and inflation the paramount issues before the nation. "If you ask people, they will unequivocally say that unemployment is the foremost concern, with inflation closely following it. However, the impression is different outside" he said.

Rahul remarked that it was his duty to amplify public voices as he lamented the media's "silence" on crucial matters.

He sought to subdivide the country's population into tribals, Dalits, and minorities. "Most of the population belongs to these groups along with the impoverished lot. He contrasted this section against the disproportionate representation in the upper echelons of India's corporate sector. He said Modi "forgave" ₹16 lakh crore owed by the corporates, equating the amount to decades' worth of funds for labourers under MNREGA.

Promising to redirect wealth from billionaires to the marginalized, he said: "Wealth that Modi has bestowed upon the affluent will be redirected to the impoverished, backward classes, tribals, and Dalits." He asked why this "forgiveness" doesn't garner public and media concerns. He also highlighted the vast economic disparity, noting that India's 22 wealthiest individuals possessed wealth equivalent to that of 70 crore people.

Gandhi lambasted the BJP's implementation of the GST, arguing that it burdened farmers.

'Large-scale corruption through electoral bonds'

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of indulging in large-scale corruption through electoral bonds. "Extortion is going on and its name is electoral bonds," Gandhi said while addressing a rally in Phalodi

At Dholpur, Modi draws Raj link to Ayodhya temple

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

AT his election rally in the eastern Rajasthan district of Dholpur, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the BJP's significant achievement of constructing the Ram Temple. Modi emphasised the connection of the Ram Temple with Rajasthan, noting that a considerable amount of stone for the temple's construction came from this region.

He criticized the Congress for not attending the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of the temple, which he claimed was an insult to Hindus across the country. The Prime Minister targeted the Congress for its policy of appeasement, alleging that numerous temples were demolished, and stones were even hurled at Ramnavami processions in the state. BJP's successful use of polarization as a theme in previous assembly elections in Rajasthan suggests that PM Modi aims to capitalize on similar sentiments even in the Lok Sabha polls in the state.

Additionally, addressing the issue of water scarcity in Rajasthan, PM Modi promised that if BJP returns to power, he will ensure that adequate water reaches every home in the state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that not only the history but also the intentions of the Congress are dangerous. He accused Congress leaders of demolishing temples and seizing their lands for appeasement of minorities and to indulge in

corruption. He further highlighted incidents of stones being pelted at the Ram Navami processions in the state during Congress rule.

Modi questioned the language used by Congress leaders regarding the Ram temple, which received stones from Dholpur, Rajasthan, for its construction after a 500-year wait in Ayodhya. He criticized them for boycotting the prestigious inaugural ceremony of the Ram temple.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on his fourth election tour of Rajasthan. During a rally in support of BJP candidate Indu Devi Jatav at Siddharth City, Karauli district headquarters, PM Modi expressed confidence in the return of a BJP government in the country with the support of the people. He rallied party workers and supporters from various districts, instilling the mantra of victory for the Karauli-Dholpur Lok Sabha seat.

In his endeavor to realize the vision of a developed India, PM Modi pledged his dedication, emphasizing his commitment to addressing the challenges faced by Rajasthan, particularly the water crisis. He contrasted BJP's approach of service, responsibility, and accountability with Congress's alleged exploitation of water resources for profit.

Udhampur set to welcome Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to hit the campaign trail in Udhampur on Friday as a star campaigner for Union Minister Jitendra Singh, prompting the authorities to activate multi-tier security setup, including ban on flying of drones. Singh is seeking re-election for the third time.

Misa Bharti draws BJP flak

The BJP lashed out at RJD leader Misa Bharti on Thursday for threatening to put its leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in jail if the INDIA bloc is voted to power at the Centre and said people will give the opposition parties a fitting reply in the polls for such remarks.

MNS leaders quit after Raj move

Many office-bearers of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) have resigned in protest after their party chief Raj Thackeray declared support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance in the state. MNS general secretary Kirtikumar Shinde took to Facebook to explain.

MAHARASHTRA

MVA's Maha rift refuses to die as Cong struggles with 3 seats

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

AFTER the MVA seat-sharing deal, many Congress leaders in Maharashtra are sore over the state leadership for conceding three Lok Sabha seats to allies Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP).

In the deal, Shiv Sena (UBT) got 21 seats, Congress 17 and NCP (SP) 10. Maharashtra Congress had staked claim over Sangli, Bhiwandi and Mumbai South Central seats, but alliance partners did not budge from their stand. Mumbai Congress president and MLA Varsha Gaikwad was keen to contest from Mumbai South Central.

This was also represented by her late father Eknath Gaikwad who had defeated Shiv Sena leader Manohar Joshi in 2009. However, Uddhav Thackeray did not relent and fielded party's Rajya Sabha member Anil

Desai from the seat.

Former Maharashtra Congress president Vasant Dada Patil's grandson Vishal Patil was keen to contest from Sangli, but Shiv Sena (UBT) refused to concede and fielded Chandrahar Patil from there. Bhiwandi is another disputed seat that Congress surrendered to its ally Sharad Pawar-led NCP. Many local Congress leaders have threatened to resign from party posts.

Cong with 17 seats

Uddhav's has 21 seats, Congress 17 and NCP (SP) 10. State Congress had staked claim South Central seats, but alliance did not budge.

JHARKHAND

Kalpana Soren at centre stage of JMM's 'Nyay Ulgulaan Rally'

TMC to attend

The TMC will attend the opposition rally to be held in Jharkhand's capital Ranchi on April 21. The party may send its leaders.

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

FORMER Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana Soren, who will be a star campaigner for JMM and INDIA bloc during the Lok Sabha polls in the state, has also assumed command of the arrangements for 'Nyay Ulgulaan Rally' to be held in Ranchi on April 21.

According to party sources, Kalpana is sending personal invitations to INDIA bloc leaders and coordinating with them to make the rally a grand success.

JMM will host the 'Nyay Ulgulaan Rally' of INDIA, which will be attended by Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi, RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav and his son Tejashwi Yadav, Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal, among other top leaders of the alliance.

To take stock of the preparations for the rally, a meeting, headed by CM Champai Soren, was held at the Hemant Soren's residence on April 7, which was attended by Kalpana and Basant Soren, the younger brother of Hemant Soren, apart from allies' leaders in the state.

80,000
licensed firearms dealers are there in the US

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	30	15	LC	Los Angeles	22	13	LC
Colombo	32	26	TDS	Melbourne	18	10	LC
Dhaka	35	25	LC	Moscow	16	6	LC
Dubai	31	24	LC	New York	17	9	LR
Houston	27	16	SNY	Singapore	30	26	LC
Istanbul	29	21	LC	Toronto	11	5	LR
London	22	12	LC	Washington	19	9	LC

RUSSIAN ATTACK

Missiles, drones destroy mega power plants in Ukraine

KYIV

A massive missile and drone attack destroyed one of Ukraine's largest power plants and damaged others, officials said on Thursday, part of a renewed Russian campaign targeting energy infrastructure.

The Trypilska plant, which was the biggest energy supplier for the Kyiv, Cherkasy and Zhytomyr regions, was struck numerous times, destroying the transformer, turbines and generators and leaving the plant ablaze. As the first drone approached, workers hid in a shelter, saving their lives, said Andrii Hota, director of the state company that runs the plant, Centrenergo.

They watched the plant burn, surrounded by dense smoke and engulfed in flames. "It's terrifying," said Hota. Hours later, rescuers were still dismantling the rubble.

The plant supplied electricity to 3 million customers but none lost power because the grid was able to compensate since demands are low at this time of year. Still, the consequences of the strikes could be felt in the coming months, as air conditioning use ramps up with summer. At least 10 other strikes overnight damaged energy infrastructure in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. where more than 200,000 people were without power. *AP*

Israel launches targeted ops against Hamas in central Gaza

Air Force, artillery troops carried out strikes at dozens of targets, including tunnel infrastructure

GAZA STRIP

ISRAEL launched a "targeted operation" against Hamas in the central Gaza Strip overnight, pushing into an area on the outskirts of the Nuseirat refugee camp largely left untouched by troops until now, *The Times of Israel* reported on Thursday.

Heavy airstrikes and artillery shelling pounded parts of the camp before troops moved into the area, which sits adjacent to the lone corridor where Israeli soldiers remain in Gaza. Palestinians said a strike on a residential building killed at least five people, and other apartment towers were also struck.

The Israel Defense Forces said the air force and artillery troops carried out strikes against dozens of Hamas targets, including tunnel infrastructure. The navy also carried out artillery strikes near the coast to support ground troops, the IDF said.

The operation followed intelligence indicating "the presence of terror infrastructure and many terrorists in the area," the army said.

Soldiers engaged with armed fighters during the night, including a gunman who emerged from a tunnel and was hit with an airstrike, according to the IDF. Troops also located several rocket launchers in the area. Hamas-linked media reported heavy fighting in the area was continuing Thursday.

There were also reports of airstrikes in other parts of the Strip, particularly the south, with the Palestinian Maan News Agency reporting that 122 people were killed in Gaza over the previous 24 hours.

Israel has not previously operated on the ground in Nuseirat, though last month Hamas's third-in-command, Marwan Issa, was killed in an airstrike in the area.

The operation occurred as Israel has appeared to dial back the use of ground troops and shift from a wide-scale offensive to pinpoint operations. This was in line with US demands for changes to the way fighting is taking place amid international concern over the deaths of civilians in the Strip and claims of near-famine conditions.

Just one brigade — comprising several thousand troops — remains in the Strip, where it is holding an east-west corridor that essentially splits the enclave into two.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly said he approved the military's plans for an operation in Rafah, although he has not given the green light to carry them out.

Palestinians carry an injured girl following Israeli bombardment on the Firas market area in Gaza City on April 11 | AFP

WAR WATCH

ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 188

GAZA TOLL SO FAR

34,005 *

Biden's ironclad to Israel if Iran attacks

US President Joe Biden emphasised his country's 'ironclad' support for Israel on as Iran vows to retaliate for this month's deadly strike on the Iranian Consulate in Syria. The US military believes Israel carried out the airstrike on Iran's diplomatic station, which killed two top generals and others.

**Combined toll in Gaza and West Bank*

South Korea's Prime Minster Han Duck-soo speaks during a cabinet meeting at the government complex in Seoul | AFP

South Korea's PM offers to resign over election defeat

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea's prime minister and senior presidential officials offered to resign en masse on Thursday, after their conservative ruling party suffered a crushing defeat in parliamentary elections.

The results of Wednesday's elections were a huge political blow to President Yoon Suk Yeol, likely setting back his domestic agenda and leave him facing an intensifying political offensive by his liberal opponents during his remaining three years.

Prime Minster Han Duck-soo and all senior presidential advisers to Yoon, except those in charge of security issues, submitted their resignations, according to Yoon's office. It didn't immediately say whether Yoon accepted their resignations. Executive power in South Korea is heavily concentrated in the president, but the prime minister is the No. 2 official and leads the country if the president becomes incapacitated. Yoon said he will 'humbly uphold' the public sentiments reflected in the election outcome and focus on improving people's economic situations and on reforming state affairs, according to his office.

In a separate news conference, ruling People Power Party leader Han Dong-hoon said he would step down as well to take responsibility for the election defeat.

With most of the votes counted, the main opposition Democratic Party and its satellite party appeared to have won a combined 175 seats in the 300-member National Assembly. Another small liberal opposition party was expected to win 12 seats under a proportional representation system, according to South Korean media tallies.

Yoon's ruling People Power Party and its satellite party were projected to have obtained 109 seats.

The outcome means the liberal opposition forces will extend their control of the parliament, though they likely won't have the super majority of 200 seats that would give them the power to overturn vetoes and even impeach the president.

Wednesday's election was widely seen as a midterm confidence vote on Yoon, a former top prosecutor who took office in 2022 for a single five-year term. He has pushed hard to boost cooperation with the US and Japan to address security and economic challenges. *AP*

China sanctions 2 US companies over arms sales to Taiwan

BEIJING

CHINA on Thursday announced sanctions against two US defence companies over what it called their support for arms sales to Taiwan, the self-governing island democracy Beijing claims as its own territory to be recovered by force if necessary. The announcement freezes the assets of General Atomics Aeronautical Systems and General Dynamics Land Systems held within China.

It also bars the companies' management from entering the country. Filings show General Dynamics operates a half-dozen Gulfstream and jet aviation services operations in China, which remains heavily reliant on foreign aerospace technology even as it attempts to build its own presence in the field.

The company also helps make the Abrams tank being purchased by Taiwan to replace outdated armour intended to deter or resist an invasion from China.

General Atomics produces the Predator and Reaper drones used by the US military. Chinese authorities did not go into details on the company's alleged involvement with supplying arms to Taiwan. Beijing has long threatened such sanctions, but has rarely issued them as its economy reels from the COVID-19 pandemic, high unemployment and a sharp decline in foreign investment.

"The continued US arms sales to China's Taiwan region seriously violate the one-China principle and the provisions of the three China-US joint communiques, interfere in China's internal affairs, and undermine China's sovereignty and territorial integrity," China's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The two companies did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

China has threatened action against foreign companies and governments that aid Taiwan's defence and the US military presence in the region, leading to commercial boycotts and diplomatic standoffs. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Avalanche in Austrian Alps kills three

Berlin: An avalanche near the Austrian ski resort of Soelden on Thursday killed three people from the Netherlands who were on a skiing and hiking trip, authorities said. Another person was rescued and taken to a hospital. Police said a group of 17 people from the Netherlands, accompanied by four Austrian mountain guides, was climbing toward a mountain refuge, 8,200 feet above sea level when the avalanche hit AP

Myanmar's ethnic group seizes key army outpost

Bangkok: Guerrillas from the Karen ethnic minority on Thursday claimed to have captured the last of the army's outposts in Myawaddy township in eastern Myanmar, virtually clearing the way for them to take over the town of Myawaddy, the major crossing point for trade with Thailand, The Karen National Union said in a release

ASIA MATTERS

SINGAPORE

CITY-STATE IS 5TH IN ASIA NEW RANKING

Singapore is the world's fifth-smartest city, moving up two levels from its ranking in 2023, according to the 2024 Smart City Index, *The Strait Times* reported. The annual ranking grades 142 cities on how well they use technology to enhance the quality of life of citizens. The report found that Singapore is excelling in areas like providing satisfactory basic sanitation for the poorest areas, public transport and public safety. The Smart City Index, now in its fifth iteration, is published by Swiss business school Institute for Management Development.

MALAYSIA

INDIAN FESTIVAL EXPECTS 1.5L VISITORS

The Global Indian Festival 2024 is targeting up to 150,000 visitors at its 19th edition of 'All Things India'. The festival, which runs from April 10-14 aims to make Malaysia a hub to promote Indian culture in the region. This exhibition showcases the culture of the Indian community such as clothing, food to network, The Star reported.

THAILAND

PHUKET FILES CASES AGAINST FOREIGNERS

At least 400 criminal cases have been filed against foreigners by a special task force set up to watch out for bad behaviour by visitors, Phuket governor Sophon Suwannarat said. Almost 100 foreigners have had their visas revoked for public safety, The Bangkok Post reported. The centre formed a month ago following several incidents involving foreigners, including the highly publicised case of a Swiss man who kicked a female Thai doctor on Yamu Beach in February. On Wednesday, a taxi driver in Thalang district was physically assaulted by an Austrian visitor.

TYCOON GIVEN DEATH FOR FRAUD

HANOI

REALESTATE tycoon Truong My Lan was sentenced on Thursday to death by a court in Ho Chi Minh city in southern Vietnam in the country's largest financial fraud case ever, state media Thanh Nien said.

The 67-year-old chair of the real estate company Van Thinh Phat was formally charged with fraud amounting to $12.5 billion nearly 3% of the country's 2022 GDP.

Lan illegally controlled Saigon Joint Stock Commercial Bank between 2012 and 2022 to allow 2,500 loans that resulted in losses of $27 billion to the bank, reported state media VnExpress. The court asked her to compensate the bank $26.9 million.

Despite mitigating circumstances this was a first-time offence and Lan participated in charity activities the court attributed its harsh sentence to the seriousness of the case, saying Lan was at the helm of an orchestrated and sophisticated criminal enterprise that had serious consequences with no possibility of the money being recovered, VnExpress said.

Her actions "not only violate the property management rights of individuals and organizations but also push SCB (Saigon Joint Stock Commercial Bank) into a state of special control; eroding people's trust in the leadership of the Party and State," VnExpress quoted the judgement as saying. The 2011 merger of a beleaguered SCB bank involved two other lenders. The banks have since become one of Vietnam's largest commercial banks by assets. Former central bank official Do Thi Nhan was also sentenced Thursday to life in prison for accepting $5.2 million in bribes. Lan's arrest in October 2022 was among the most high-profile in an ongoing anti-corruption drive in Vietnam that has intensified since 2022. *AP*

Business woman Truong My Lan attends a trial in Ho Chi Minh City | AP

Aussie court allows case over forced gynaec exams at Qatar

MELBOURNE

AN Australian court has rejected a case brought by five women seeking compensation from Qatar Airways over invasive gynaecological examinations conducted on passengers at Doha's airport in 2020, but their case against the airport's operator is going ahead.

The five, whose identities have been concealed by the courts, were among hundreds of women forcibly removed from airliners in Doha on October 2, 2020, as officials searched for the mother of a newborn baby found dumped in a terminal trash can.

Thirteen women were removed from a flight to Sydney. Many said they were forced to undergo non-consensual gynaecological or intimate physical examinations.

Federal Court Justice John Halley on Wednesday ruled the women's argument against state-owned Qatar Airways did not meet international airline liability protocols.

"My conclusion that the exclusivity principle precludes the applicants from pursuing any claim for damages against Qatar Airways is a complete answer to the claims that the applicants seek to bring against Qatar Airways," Halley said.

The judge also said the women's case against the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority could not go ahead. However, the case against the Qatar Company for Airports Operation and Management (MATAR), the airport's operator, could continue. MATAR is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Qatar Airways.

The women's lawyer, Damian Sturzaker, said in a statement his clients were considering an appeal. *AP*

'Trial of the century' star dies of prostate cancer

LAS VEGAS

O J Simpson, the decorated American football superstar and Hollywood actor who was acquitted of charges he killed his former wife and her friend but later found liable in a separate civil trial, has died.

He was 76. The family announced on Simpson's official X account that Simpson died Wednesday after battling prostate cancer.

Simpson earned fame, fortune and adulation through football and show business, but his legacy was forever changed by the June 1994 knife slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman in Los Angeles.

Live TV coverage of his arrest after a famous slow-speed chase marked a stunning fall from grace for the sports hero.

OJ SIMPSON
09.06.1947 - 10.04.2024

He had seemed to transcend racial barriers as the star Trojans tailback for college football's powerful University of Southern California in the late 1960s, as a rental car ad pitchman rushing through airports in the late 1970s, and as the husband of a blonde and blue-eyed high school homecoming queen in the 1980s.

"I'm not Black, I'm O.J.," he liked to tell friends.

The public was mesmerised by his "trial of the century" on live TV. His case sparked debates on race, gender, domestic abuse, celebrity justice and police misconduct.

A criminal court jury found him not guilty of murder in 1995, but a separate civil trial jury found him liable in 1997 for the deaths and ordered him to pay $33.5 million to family of Brown and Goldman.

A decade later, still shadowed by the California wrongful death judgment, Simpson led five men he barely knew into a confrontation with two sports memorabilia dealers in a cramped Las Vegas hotel room. Two men with Simpson had guns. A jury convicted Simpson of armed robbery and other felonies.

Imprisoned at age 61, he served nine years in a remote northern Nevada prison, including a stint as a gym janitor. He was not contrite when he was released on parole in October 2017. The parole board heard him insist yet again that he was only trying to retrieve sports memorabilia and family heirlooms stolen from him after his criminal trial in LA.

"I've basically spent a conflict-free life, you know," Simpson, whose parole ended in late 2021, said. *AP*

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BUSINESS

14 BENGALURU | FRIDAY 12.04.2024 | newindianexpress.com

Market Watch

MARKET			GOLD			SILVER			FOREX		
354.45 ▲	Sensex	75,038.15	₹110 ▲	24 carat (10 gm)	₹72,370	₹500 ▼	1 kg	₹85,000	▼	Dollar	83.33
111.05 ▲	Nifty	22,753.80	₹100 ▲	22 carat (10 gm)	₹66,350	₹5 ▼	10 gm	₹850	▼	Euro	89.49

IT cos may see 1-8% revenue growth

Deal conversion into growth is an issue; margins may expand on easing supply-side issues

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

IT services companies will report their Q4FY24 earnings starting with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on April 12. Experts expect muted constant currency (CC) revenue growth for Tier-1 companies and TCS is expected to lead the IT pack with 1.7% sequential CC growth, mainly led by traction from the BSNL deal.

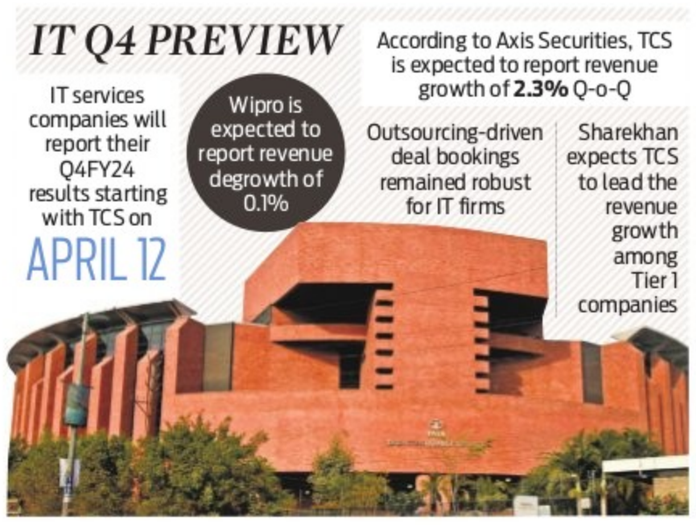
According to ICICI Securities, with continued scrutiny over discretionary spends and focus on cost optimisation, signs of improvement in IT spending in the near term remain elusive.

It says Tech Mahindra is likely to perform the worst with 1.4% QoQ contraction due to no positive traction in the communication vertical. Infosys might report a dip of 1.2% QoQ given the higher component of discretionary spending. Also, LTI-Mindtree is likely to post 0.3% QoQ contraction on account of pricing pressure and Q3 furloughs extending into Q4 for its clients. Analysts point out that deal conversion into revenue growth has been an issue. Sharekhan says deal win TCV (total contract value) for most players would recover after the moderation witnessed in the seasonally weak third quarter.

TCS order book for the third quarter stood at $8.1 billion. Analysts say deal wins, deal pipeline, outlook on growth and investments in Gen AI will be key things for IT companies. Axis Securities expects the IT sector to deliver sequential revenue growth of 1%-8% and says margins may expand on account of easing supply-side constraints and lower onsite expenses.

While Infosys is expected to report slight revenue growth of 0.3% QoQ. Axis Securities expects the management to provide 4.5% to 6% the company's revenue growth guidance for FY25E. It expects Wipro to report revenue de-growth of 0.1% QoQ in rupee terms and its operating margins are likely to expand on account of lower onsite expenses. During Q3 earnings, Wipro said, for Q4, it expects revenue from its IT services business segment in the range of -1.5% to +0.5% in constant currency terms.

Brokerages point out that clients are still in a wait-and-watch mode with continued scrutiny on discretionary spends. Sharekhan expects EBIT margin during the quarter is likely to be mixed for Tier-1 IT service companies while Tier2 IT companies are expected to show marginal to decent improvement aided by operating leverage and owing to reversal of furlough impact of Q3FY24.


IT Q4 PREVIEW
IT services companies will report their Q4FY24 results starting with TCS on
APRIL 12
Wipro is expected to report revenue degrowth of 0.1%
According to Axis Securities, TCS is expected to report revenue growth of 2.3% Q-o-Q
Outsourcing-driven deal bookings remained robust for IT firms
Sharekhan expects TCS to lead the revenue growth among Tier 1 companies

Innovations to be key focus area of PM's 100-day agenda

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE much talked-about 100-day agenda of Prime Minister Narendra Modi after getting re-elected in the general elections later this year will have a distinct focus on making India an innovation hub.

Speaking to this newspaper, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government wants India to undertake a lot of innovative works. She said the focus of the next government will be to build on the ground work the government has already done on this front. The finance minister in the interim budget had announced a corpus of Rs one lakh crore to promote technological innovation in sunrise sectors.

"We want innovation to happen here so that India becomes a leader in anushandhan, and that kind of emphasis being put there," she said. The minister said India is looking to become a leader in AI. "We have all the wherewithal... we have youngsters who are ready to do it, we're setting up three centres of excellence," she said. In the medium term, the government would keep the focus on skilling the youth, she added.

India recently launched a national-level IndiaAI mission with a budget outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore to boost artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem.

Sitharaman said the target has been set by the PM for India to become a vikshit bharat by 2047, and the work has to be done to achieve that target. "That target has been set and the government has made commitment that it will do everything on the ground – policy and legislative support – that you need to achieve the target," said the FM. Another immediate focus area of the new government is to try and sign free trade agreements (FTAs) with many countries 'with rapidity', so that the country opens up the market and it is able to grow with favorable trade transactions.

APPROVAL

Nippon Life gets licence to open subsidiary

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

JAPANESE insurance major Nippon Life has received regulatory approvals to open a subsidiary in the country as Nippon India Life Insurance Company, headquartered in Mumbai.

The company has been present in the country after buying out Reliance Life and Reliance Asset Management, which are being ruin as Reliance Nippon Life and Reliance Nippon India Asset Management.

Going forward, these two companies will be run as Nippon Life Insurance Company India and Nippon India Asset Management, Nippon Life which is the largest private asset owner in Japan, said in a statement on Thursday.

The statement said the Irdai (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority approval came in on April 10 and will be 100% subsidiary of Nippon Life Asia Pacific and will be headed by Yosuke Nakano as the chief executive.

The company statement further said that the opening of a fully-owned subsidiary will help it sharpen its focus in India and the new office will leverage geographical proximity for in-depth research and effective management and support to the domestic businesses.

"India is an important market for Nippon Life due to its status as the world's most populous country and its promising growth prospects. We will continue to contribute to the development of life insurance and asset management markets here from long-term perspective," Nippon said.

Return filing deadline for tobacco cos extended

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE government has extended the deadline for introduction of a new registration and monthly return filing procedure for manufacturers of pan masala, gutkha, and similar tobacco products by 45 days until May 15.

Initially, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had planned to implement this procedure from April 1, 2024. The initiative to revamp registration, record-keeping, and monthly filing processes for pan masala and tobacco product manufacturers was undertaken to enhance GST compliance within this sector.

Recent Finance Bill 2024 introduced an amendment to the GST law requiring manufacturers of these products to face penalties of up to ₹1 lakh if they do not register their packing machinery with the GST authorities starting from April 1. This provision for penalties starting from April 1 has not been officially notified yet. The special procedure for registration and monthly return filing was meant to cover various tobacco products like pan-masala, unmanufactured tobacco, 'Hookah' or 'gudaku' tobacco, smoking mixtures, chewing tobacco, and more. The CBIC extended the implementation date of this procedure by 45 days through a notification, now effective till May 15. Manufacturers of tobacco products were mandated to submit details of their packing machines in Form GST SRM-I within 30 days of the notification, starting from April 1, 2024. Additionally, they were required to file a special statement, GST SRM-II, by the 10th of the following month.

In February last year, the GST Council, led by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had endorsed a report by a state finance ministers' panel aimed at curbing tax evasion in pan masala and gutkha sectors. The Group of Ministers (GoM) proposed transitioning from an ad valorem to a specific rate-based levy for compensation cess on pan masala and chewing tobacco to enhance revenue collection at the initial stage.

Apple warns of potential spyware attacks to users in India, 91 other nations

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THE iPhone maker, Apple, has sent threat notifications to some users in India and 91 other countries, warning them of potential attacks by mercenary spyware.

The company also mentioned that it could be the NSO Group's controversial Pegasus malware. The notification reads that Apple detected that you are being targeted by a mercenary spyware attack that is trying to remotely compromise the iPhone associated with your Apple ID -xxx-. This attack is likely targeting you specifically because of who you are or what you do. The threat notification emails were sent around 12:30 AM IST on Thursday (April 11) to impacted users in India, and it is unclear how many people have received the warning message.

."Although it's never possible to achieve absolute certainty when detecting such attacks, Apple has high confidence in this warning — please take it seriously... Mercenary spyware attacks, such as those using Pegasus from the NSO Group, are exceptionally rare and vastly more sophisticated than regular cybercriminal activity or consumer malware. These attacks cost millions of dollars and are individually deployed against a very small number of people, but the targeting is ongoing and global," reads the warning notification from Apple.

This is the second warning notification from the American tech giant; in October 2024, it sent warning notifications to many prominent personalities in India, mainly opposition leaders. On 24 November 2023, parliamentarians including Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, Trinamool Congress' Mahua Moitra, Aam Aadmi Party's Raghav Chadha, and Congress' Shashi Tharoor shared screenshots of warning messages indicating hacking attempts made by state-sponsored attackers on their social media platforms.

These individuals have alleged that the government is conducting surveillance on them. However, the government warded off their charges and said it asked the American tech giant to participate in the investigation to determine the reason behind this message. However, later, it clarified that it does not attribute the threat notifications to any specific state-sponsored attacker.

In Apple's support page, Apple mentioned that since 2021, it has sent Apple threat notifications multiple times a year as it has detected these attacks, and to date, we have notified users in over 150 countries in total. However, Apple refuses to attribute the attacks or resulting threat notifications to any specific attackers or geographical regions.

Adani Ports & SEZ handles more cargo than govt for first time in FY24

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

THIS is the first time when Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) handled more cargo than the government in one financial year, according to industry sources.

It handled 420 MMT of cargo as compared with nearly 410 MMT of cargo by the government. As per the Adani Ports, there has been a 24% year-on-year growth in handling cargo, with Mundra port handling the highest volume of 180 MMT. As per shipping ministry tweet, the country's 12 major ports handled the highest-ever cargo of 819.4 MMT in FY24.

"The 12 major ports of government handled 819.4 MMT of cargo in FY24, out of which 50% of the cargo was handled by private players on a public-private-partnership (PPP) basis. So, the government's share comes down to nearly 410 MMT, which is less than Adani Ports' share. This is the first time, when it has happened," the source said. According to the government data, cargo traffic at 12 major ports during April-March 2022-23 increased by 8.8% to 783.50 million tonne from 720.29 million tonne cargo handled during April-March 2021-22.

"During FY24, more than one-fourth of all India cargo volumes was routed through APSEZ ports. This significant contribution by APSEZ underscores its active role in driving India's growth trajectory. It also shows that India's largest port operator comfortably surpassed its cargo volume guidance of 370 MMT - 390 MMT provided at the start of the financial year," Adani Ports had said in a statement.

As per Adani Ports, this feat was achieved despite multiple challenges such as the global trade disruptions caused by the Red Sea crisis, Russia-Ukraine conflict and issues at the Panama Canal, and disruption of operations due to Cyclone Biparjoy and Cyclone Michaung.

Adani Ports has been strategically expanding its presence in the maritime sector through various acquisitions. It recently acquired Gopalpur Port in Odisha for ₹3,080 crore from the Shapoorji Pallonji Group and Orissa Stevedores Ltd, marking its seventh port acquisition since 2014.

Worst is behind us, ops stabilised, says Vistara CEO

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

After facing significant flight disruptions recently, Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan on Thursday said the airline employees that the "worst is behind us" and operations have already stabilised.

Pilot woes have forced the Tata Group airline to temporarily cut down capacity by 10% or 25-30 flights daily. While acknowledging that things should have been planned better, Kannan said it has been a "learning experience". He said it has been a challenging start to the new financial year and the airline faced major operational disruption from March 31 to April 2.

The carrier has about 6,500 people, including 1,000 pilots. In the wake of the disruptions, the top management of the airline had held a virtual meeting with the pilots. One of the reasons for the disruptions was also that some section of pilots reporting sick to protest against the new contract.

Malls expected to add 6 million sq.ft of operational space in 8 key markets

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

RETAIL leasing is likely gain added momentum this year, adding around 6 million sqft of operational mall space the key eight markets, taking the overall retail space addition to 6-6.5 million sqft, according to a report.

Estimated leasing in the retail sector is expected to sustain 6.00-6.5 million sqft this year fueled by primary leasing activity property consultant CBRE said in a report Thursday.

The leasing expansion will be led by the home décor segment which is likely to expand in online and offline formats, fashion and apparel players and jewellery brands which are seen expanding their footprint. Emerging as an alternative to traditional cinema halls, the growing interest of consumers in the entertainment category is also likely to lead to more traction in leasing as well, says the report. However, retailers, including anchor tenants and established brands, are expected to proceed cautiously with expansion plans, as they will prioritise locations with high visibility, strong foot traffic and favourable consumer demographics, says the report. As a result, rental growth is expected to rationalise across both primary and secondary locations. Driven by robust consumer demand, the retail sector saw remarkable growth in 2023. Looking ahead to 2024, both retailers and consumers are cautiously optimistic. While tier-I cities remain key expansion hubs, promising tier-II markets are attracting new players, the report said.

Retail demand across investment-grade malls, prominent high streets and standalone developments has grown consistently since 2020. Year 2023 reported absorption of nearly 7.1 million sqft, a 47 percent on-year growth in tier-I cities.

Leasing activity was primarily driven by Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR and Mumbai, with the three cities cumulatively accounting for nearly 61 percent share. Meanwhile industrial logistics supply will see an addition of 35-37 million sq.ft in 2024.

Business & Beyond

DVC achieves ground-breaking milestones in FY 2023-24

DVC, a leading integrated power utility celebrates and announces another year of remarkable and outstanding performance in FY 2023-24. DVC has achieved highest cumulative generation in its 75 year history, by registering44314.6 MU in FY 23-24, which includes 44125.5 MU of thermal, 180 MU of hydel and 9.1 MU of solar generation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- DVC achieved highest thermal generation at 76.81% PLF in FY 23-24 which is the highest in last ten years and well ahead of the national PLF of 68%.
- Most of the plants of DVC have run at more than 80% PLF in FY 2023-24.
- DVC has achieved coal production of 1.52 MMT in FY 2023-24 from its captive coal mines at Tubed, Latehar with 346 coal rakes despatched this year.

61st National Maritime Day celebrated at PPA

61st National Maritime Day was celebrated at PPA in the Wet Basin of the PPA's Marine Site office, where, P.L.Haranadh, Chairman, PPA graced the occasion as Chief Guest. At the meeting, Haranadh spoke at length how indomitable spirit of Paradip Port Family enabled it for the first time in the 57 years history of operation to become No.1 Major Port in the country, surpassing previous records, set by Deendayal Port. A no. of business development activities and system improvement measures implemented in recent years have given remarkable results.

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works to convert WAP-5 locos into Push-Pull pairs

In 2024-25, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) will convert old WAP-5 locos into Push-Pull pairs for hauling Amrit Bharat trains. For the first time, locomotives will be equipped with EP Assist brake control.It will help in quick communication of brake apply and brake release commands from locomotive to coaches. Signal propagation will be instantaneous.

BENEFITS WILL BE

- Uniform & faster brake application throughout the train
- Reduced and even coupler forces throughout the train
- Reduction in braking distance
- Reduction in release time

As per last trial by RDSO with WAP-4 single loco and 21 LHB coaches, full service braking distance at 130 kmph was 1444 mtr (without EP assist) and 1106 mtr with EP- assist ON.

Italian wrestler claims he rejected $300,000 bribe

Two-time world champion and Olympic bronze medalist Frank Chamizo claimed he turned down a bribe of $300,000 to deliberately lose a match at last week's European wrestling Olympic qualification in Baku, Azerbaijan. Chamizo, who competes for Italy after immigrating from Cuba in 2011, ended up controversially losing the semifinal match to Azerbaijani freestyle wrestler Turan Bayramov.

Expect to win every time I throw: Neeraj

World No 1 javelin ace says he could cross 90m barrier before the Paris Olympics

INDRANEEL DAS @Chennai

IT'S mid-April and the athletics season is slowly warming up. Off-season training is over and athletes are gradually gearing up for competitions. In Antalya, at the Gloria Sports Arena, one man is quietly training for the gruelling season that would culminate with the Olympics in Paris from July 26 to August 11. Javelin Olympic and world champion, Neeraj Chopra, is now looking forward to the big days ahead.

After a productive training for around three months in South Africa, the 25-year-old Indian has shifted to Turkey before starting his season at the Doha Diamond League on May 10. Though not finalized, Neeraj outlined his plan for the season during an online interaction on Thursday. His 90-metre plan is still intact and he felt that it can come before the Olympics as well. Staying injury-free will be crucial too. As reported by this newspaper, Neeraj has been working with strength and conditioning coach Spencer Mackay, who was at the Inspire Institute of Sports in Bellary. "I had worked with him during my injury rehab in 2019," said Neeraj. "During training before the season, the focus was on fitness, strength and conditioning. There was a marked improvement in technique like clean and jerk and snatch (lifting). We have worked on our strength and conditioning in South Africa and here in Antalya as well. Now, we have started throwing as well. Overall, it was quite good."

The one question that would not leave the current World No 1 until he manages to pull it off is his 90m aspirations. Neeraj is hoping it can come soon. "Hopefully, this time it happens before the Olympics," he said with a smile. "People don't have to wait for the Olympics. Everything is going fine (training) and smooth. So preparation is good and it may happen early."

As expected, the world has changed for Neeraj after the Tokyo Olympics gold. His self-confidence has inflated. The expectations are sky-high too. "The confidence level is high. And I expect to win every time I throw in a competition. I have won quite a few events as well. I won the silver and gold at World Championships, Diamond League Trophy and threw well and retained the Asian Games crown. So it was good. Mentally and physically, I think I'm prepared for the Olympics. I have not done anything special for mental training but I know it's the second Olympics and I feel good and physically, I am feeling good. What is good is that everything is positive."

Speaking about off season, Neeraj said that though the season starts by January or February with indoor events, javelin is not part of it. "For us, we feel like when will the competitions start?," he said. "Finally, that wait will be over in May. If we utilize the off-season well, it is good for us."

'Great move by World Athletics'

Neeraj also welcomed the World Athletics' decision to give prize-money to the gold medallist at the Olympics starting with the Paris Games. He felt that unlike sports like tennis, football or cricket, athletes don't make too much money. "It is good if someone supports you because in the end, you will have to support your family," he said. "It is a great move by World Athletics (WA)," he said. "WA is getting quite active. So, it's a good move for athletes."

Speaking about his journey, Neeraj felt that winning at big events like the World Championships and Diamond Leagues have been quite positive. "Earlier, there were no medals at World Championships or Diamond Leagues, but now I have been competing and winning. That's a big change. I am able to maintain my position."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Silver lining for wrestler Vidit as India win 3 medals

AGENCIES @ Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)

INDIAN wrestler Udit settled for a silver after a 4-5 loss to Kento Yumiya of Japan in the men's free-style 57kg final at the senior Asian Championship here. India also won two bronze medals through Abhimanyou and Vicky in their respective categories.

Abhimanyou defeated Begijon Kuldashev of Uzbekistan 6-5 in men's 70kg free-style, while Vicky pinned down home favourite Andrey Romanovitch Aronov 10-1 in the men's 97kg for India's third medal of the day. However, there was heartbreak for Rohit Kumar (65kg) as he lost to Masanosuke Ono of Japan 3-5 in his bronze-medal match.

In the 57kg final, Vidit and his Japanese rival were locked four-all with seconds left on the clock before the latter went on to win.

Bumrah's five gives Mumbai Royal high

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

MI's Jasprit Bumrah rejoices after taking a wicket against RCB on Thursday | AFP

DEATH, taxes and Jasprit Bumrah channelling his genius on a cricket field. Or something like that. On Thursday night, the pacer, widely recognised as one of the best bowlers going around, displayed all of his best hits. In the process, he helped a beleaguered franchise who were facing another beleaguered franchise.

Mumbai had lost three of the opening four games but that was despite Bumrah's best efforts. Bengaluru posted a challenging 197 on a typical Wankhede track and the innings, from the hosts' perspective, reflected the gulf between Bumrah and the other bowlers. While he picked up 5/21 in four overs, the others, between them, had returned with figures of 3/173 in 16 overs. That has been the franchise's Achilles Heel this season.

While Bumrah has overall figures of 10 for 119 in 20 overs, the combined total of the others read 18 for 838 in 75.3 overs. After being given the ball in the third over of innings, he was into the action straightaway. One length delivery came in with the angle into Virat Kohli whose across the line swipe caught the edge through to Ishan Kishan. Post that 100 in his last match, the opener was very uncharacteristic and had zero rhythm. The end result was a nine-ball three.

Will Jacks, in place of Cameron Green, also didn't hang around but Rajat Patidar and Faf du Plessis were in the middle of a fine rebuilding job when Hardik Pandya turned to Bumrah again. To be honest, this has been a set pattern. Give him one over in the powerplay, one in the middle phase and two at the death. In the one over he bowled, he mixed it up cleverly with yorkers, a slower ball, one on length and a short ball to boot. The visitors had scored 54 off the previous five overs so this was a welcome relief for the hosts. The effect was a wicket to Gerald Coetzee three balls later.

Patidar, who had already hit the South African for back-to-back sixes, went for another big shot off a shortish ball but ended up gloving it to Kishan. That's the kind of effect unbowled Bumrah overs can have on the batting team. On a good surface, you need more than par to feel comfortable and when somebody like a Bumrah has 12 balls remaining in the last last nine overs, you feel like you want to target all the other bowlers.

While Dinesh Karthik managed to hit four boundaries off Akash Madhwal, Du Plessis took on Bumrah. A shin high full toss was pouched smartly by long on. Off the next ball, Mahipal Lomror, who impressed in his last dig, came, saw and was conquered; a Bumrah yorker that crashed into his toe like it was a laser guided missile.

It's what makes facing Bumrah such a huge challenge in this format. It's almost like Arjen Robben cutting in off the right wing before curling into the far corner off his left foot. You can prepare for it but you can seldom win that fight. He wasn't done for the night. Minutes later, he came back and picked up two in two again as Saurav Chauhan and Vijaykumar Vyshak were sent packing. Thirteen dots, five wickets, 21 runs. A magisterial performance under the Wankhede lights to help the team home. With the entree done, Kishan, Rohit and Suryakumar Yadav helped themselves to a couple of helpings of dessert to take them accross the line.

Brief scores: RCB 196/8 in 20 ovs (Du Plessis 61, Patidar 50, Karthik 53 n.o; Bumrah 5/21) **lost to** Mumbai Indians 199/3 in 15.3 ovs (Kishan 69, Rohit 38, Suryakumar 52).

Capitals seek change in fortunes

Delhi have only managed to win just one fixture in the IPL so far. They face a spirited Lucknow side next. A look...

LSG'S MASTERY OVER DEFENSE

After failing to chase in their opening match against Rajasthan, Lucknow have defended their total in the following three matches, including 163 against Gujarat on their home ground. Their bowling unit has come together to hunt in pack. That could hurt Delhi's relatively weak middle-order.

WHAT'S AILING DELHI'S BOWLING?

If Lucknow's bowling attack has come together, Delhi's bowling attack has leaked runs left, right and centre. In their last two fixtures, Delhi have given away 200+ runs and every bowler has struggled so far. If they want to succeed in the competition, they need to sort out their bowling unit immediately.

Lucknow Super Giants vs Delhi Capitals, Lucknow

Live on Star Sports and JioCinema, 7.30PM

Candidates chess: Pragg, Vidit post vital wins; Gukesh stays in joint lead

AGENCIES @ Toronto

Vidit Gujrathi got the better of Frenchman Alireza in Rd 6 | PTI

GRANDMASTER R Praggnanandhaa and Vidit Gujrathi scored crushing victories, while D Gukesh held on to the joint top spot with a draw in a brilliant sixth-round outing for the Indian men's team at the Candidates Chess Tournament here. Pragnanandhaa prevailed over Nijat Abasov of Azerbaijan, while Vidit got the better of Frenchman Alireza. Gukesh's draw came against American Hikaru Nakamura.

With eight rounds still remaining, the 17-year-old Gukesh and Ian Nepomniachtchi continue to share the lead in the men's section with four points each in their kitty.

Russian Nepomniachtchi, who is playing under the FIDE flag, played out a draw with top seeded American Fabiano Caruana. There was disappointment for India in the women's competition as R Vaishali suffered a reversal, losing to Kateryna Lagno of Russia. Vaishali, who is the elder sister of Praggnanandhaa, now has a lot of ground to cover if she has to come back in the tournament.

Koneru Humpy also lost, to Tingjie Lei of China, while Nurgyul Salimova of Bulgaria found her nemesis in Aleksandra Goryachkina of Russia.

RESULTS

Round 6 (Indians unless specified): Vidit Gujrathi (3) beat Firouza Alireza (Fra, 1.5); D Gukesh (4) drew with Hikaru Nakamura (Usa, 3); R Praggnanandhaa (3.5) beat Nijat Abasov (Aze, 1.5); Ian Nepomniachtchi (Fid, 4) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 3.5).

Women: R Vaishali (2.5) lost to Kateryna Lagno (Fid, 3.5); K Humpy (2) lost ot Tingjie Lei (Chn, 3); Zhongyi Tan (Chn, 4.5) beat Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 2); Aleksandra Goryachkina (Fid, 4) beat Nurgyul Salimova (Bul, 2.5).

Pragnanandhaa shares the third spot with Caruana on 3.5 points and Gujrathi is not far behind on the joint fifth spot alogside Nakamura with three points. It was the end of the road for Alireza and Abasov who both are reeling with just 1.5 points close to the half-way stage in the biggest event of the year.

In the women's section, Zhongyi Tan of China made another stride forward and scored a win over Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine. With 4.5 points in her bag from six games, Tan seems to be running away in this section and the only threat comes from Goryachkina who is a half point behind.

Lagno stands third on 3.5 points, half a point ahead of Lei. Vaishali and Salimova remained on 2.5 points and surprisingly Humpy is at the bottom of the table on two points with Muzychuk.

Praggnanandhaa started as a huge favourite against Abasov and did not disappoint his fans. The Tarrasch defense has found more than a few takers here in the event but on Thursday Praggnanandhaa was at his technical best. The middle game saw the queens getting traded and the Indian had to find some real resources with his Knights doing a sort of tango. Picking up the last remaining pawn on the queen side, Praggnanandhaa ensured he was faster in the race to make a new queen and after 45 moves it was all over for Abasov.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant players celebrate Manvir Singh's goal | ISL

Mohun Bagan stay in hunt for League Shield

ENS @ Bengaluru

MOHUN Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) set up a thrilling finish to the league stages of the ongoing ISL season with a 4-0 win against Bengaluru FC (BFC) at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, here. The win kept them in the hunt for the League Winners' Shield. With one game left, MBSG (45) face current leaders Mumbai City FC, who are two points ahead. The two teams meet each other on April 15 and the equation is simple. Mumbai just need a draw or a win while MBSG need a win.

Hector Yuste, Manvir Singh, Anirudh Thapa and Armando Sadiku scored for MBSG on the day against BFC.

FINAL ON MAY 4, PLAYOFFS FROM APR 19

According to the organisers of ISL, the final will be held on May 4 while the playoffs is scheduled to start from April 19. The venue of the final will be announced soon, Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), the league's organiser said.

Teams who are in contention for title

Mumbai City FC, Mohun Bagan SG, Odisha FC, FC Goa, Kerala Blasters FC, Chennaiyin FC, East Bengal FC's.

The top-two finishers will directly qualify for semis while the teams ranked third to sixth will contest in the single-leg playoffs.

- **Playoffs schedule:** April 19 & 20
- **Semifinals:** First leg: April 23 & 24; Second leg: April 28 & 29
- **Final:** May 4

EXPRESS READ

Spirited Nagal takes a set off Rune before exiting in Rd 2

MONTE CARLO: India's Sumit Nagal took a set off World No 7 Holger Rune before losing his rain-hit second round match of the Monte Carlo Masters on Thursday. Nagal threatened to spoil Rune's party by taking the second set after the second round match, suspended due to rain on Wednesday, resumed. However, he lost his serve twice in the final set to lose 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

Medvedev knocked out by Khachanov in Monte Carlo

MONTE CARLO: Daniil Medvedev launched into another angry tirade against the officiating at the Monte Carlo Masters as he was beaten 6-3, 7-5 in the third round by Karen Khachanov. Medvedev was hit with a point penalty to start the final game after berating chair umpire Carlos Bernardes and then became embroiled in a heated discussion with the tournament supervisor.

Shrachi Group inks deal with the paralympic federation

NEW DELHI: In a major step to supporting the Paralympic movement in India, Shrachi Group and Shrachi Sports have signed a deal with the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) for three years. Ahead of the Paralympic Games, this deal will help the PCI support its athletes better and make a difference during the upcoming Paris Games.

Sindhu, Prannoy lose in pre-quarters of BAC

NINGBO: Shuttler PV Sindhu fought valiantly but lost against sixth seed Han Yue of China in a pre-quarterfinal of the Badminton Asia Championships here. Sindhu lost 18-21, 21-13, 17-21. HS Prannoy also lost 18-21, 11-21 against Chinese Taipei's Lin Chun-Yi in the second round. Women's doubles combination of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa also lost.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Barcelona overcome PSG in thriller to seize edge

AFP @ Paris

ANDREAS Christensen came off the bench to head in the winning goal as Barcelona won 3-2 away to Paris Saint-Germain in a remarkable first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal tie on Wednesday.

Raphinha had earlier scored twice for the Catalans at the Parc des Princes, slotting in the opener late in the first half and then volleying in an equaliser to make it 2-2 just after the hour mark. In between, PSG had turned the game around as they awoke from a poor first-half display by starting in electrifying fashion after the restart with two goals in six minutes, neither coming from Kylian Mbappe. Ousmane Dembele struck against his old club, and Vitinha briefly put the French giants in front, only for Barcelona to recover in stunning fashion to take control of the tie.

Christensen's goal ended PSG's 27-game unbeaten run and gives Barca a lead to defend at home in the return next Tuesday. "I am very proud. It is a great victory against one of the best teams in the world, but we are only halfway there," said Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez. "PSG still have every chance on Tuesday, but we have a one-goal advantage and we will be playing at home."

That second leg will be played at Montjuic, the Catalan club's temporary home, rather than the Camp Nou, the scene of Barcelona's incredible 6-1 win over PSG in 2017 and of a lethal Mbappe hat-trick in a 2021 meeting of the teams.

Barcelona's Raphina (L) scored a double against PSG on Wednesday | AP

Atletico take slender lead

Atletico Madrid earned a 2-1 first leg victory over Borussia Dortmund, surviving a late onslaught from the visitors.

Rodrigo De Paul and Samuel Lino's first half goals gave Diego Simeone's side a commanding lead but Sebastien Haller pulled one back to give the German side a foothold in the tie ahead of next week's return in Dortmund. Edin Terzig said his side, fifth in the Bundesliga, were "very nervous" in the first half but they improved and hit the woodwork twice in the final stages of a match.

Results: Quarterfinals (1st legs): In Madrid: Atletico Madrid (ESP) 2-1 Borussia Dortmund (GER); **In Paris:** PSG (FRA) 2-3 Barcelona (ESP).

East Zone win seesaw battle to claim top prize

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

DEEPTI Sharma's all-round performance helped East Zone win the senior women's inter-zonal multi-day trophy final by one wicket against South Zone at the MCA Stadium in Pune. South Zone captain Minnu Mani took three wickets on the final day, but it was not enough for her side.

Starting the day at 30 for two with 154 more runs needed to win the trophy, East Zone lost Uma Chetry early for 17. Sharma, batting at four in the second innings, held the chase together with a knock of 46 when the wickets were falling around her. Richa Ghosh's knock of 33 runs off 44 balls pushed East Zone towards the target. Once she fell, with 69 runs still needed, East Zone wobbled a bit when they lost Rizu Saha soon.

Sharma took her side closer to the win, but fell short of her half-century as Sahana Pawar took the wicket. Saika Ishaque and Monikha Das did not last long as South made a comeback with the ball. Sushree Dibyadarshini's 15 off 25 balls all but ensured East Zone's win, but Mani trapped her in the front to give South Zone a glimmer of hope. However, Annapurna Das (12 not out) and Titas Sadhu (four not out) took East Zone home.

Brief Scores: South Zone 133 & 179 **lost to** East Zone 129 & 184/9 in 61.3 ovs (Deepti Sharma 46; Sahana Pawar 3/44, Minnu Mani 3/65).

GOOGLE CLOUD NEXT '24
GEMINI MODELS, GEN AI AND MORE

UMA KANNAN @Bengaluru

GOOGLE'S flagship Cloud Next event, which concluded on April 11 in Las Vegas, introduced many emerging tech products.

During the event, Google experts and developers highlighted many gen AI use cases and supercomputing architecture, among others. The tech giant also announced new features that are coming to Sheets, Meet and Docs.

Speaking at the event, Thomas Kurian, CEO of Google Cloud, said last year, the world was just beginning to imagine how generative AI technology could transform businesses—and today, that transformation is well underway. More than 60% of funded gen AI startups and nearly 90% of gen AI unicorns are Google Cloud customers.

From Gemini Code Assist for developers to new enhancements for Gemini in Google Workspace, the flagship event made significant announcements.

"Today, realising the full potential of the cloud goes beyond infrastructure, network, and storage. It demands a new way of thinking. It's embracing possibilities to solve problems in boldly creative ways, and reimagining solutions to achieve the previously impossible. We're both inspired and amazed to see this mindset quickly materialise in our customers' work as they pave new paths forward in the AI era—whether automating day-to-day tasks or tackling complex challenges," he said.

Google Vids

The company also announced Vids, its newest Workspace app, which is an AI-powered video creation app for work. It can generate a storyboard that one can easily edit, and after choosing a style, it pieces together the first draft with suggested scenes from stock videos, images and background music.

Use your voice to send emails

Now, you can use your voice to send emails from your Gmail app. The new instant polish feature is coming to Gemini in Gmail, as it helps one transform notes into a more complete email draft. These are available to Gemini Enterprise and Gemini Business customers, and Google One AI Premium subscribers.

New features of Gemini in BigQuery

To simplify data preparation, validation, and enrichment, BigQuery now includes AI augmented data preparation that helps users to cleanse and wrangle their data, Google said in its blog post. Additionally, it is also enabling users to build low-code visual data pipelines, or rebuild legacy pipelines in BigQuery. Gemini in BigQuery provides AI-powered experiences for data preparation, analysis and engineering as well as intelligent recommendations to enhance user productivity and optimise costs.

AI Hypercomputer

It is a supercomputing architecture that incorporates a set of functions built through systems-level codesign to boost ML productivity across AI training, tuning, and serving applications.

Developers and experts at the event concluded that this is the most exciting period of computing and explained the power of Gen AI and that it can help companies boost productivity.

THOMAS KURIAN, CEO, GOOGLE CLOUD

Microsoft has announced a $2.9 billion investment over the next two years in Japan to bolster the country's push into artificial intelligence—single largest investment in its 46-year history in Japan

Firms embrace emerging tech to slash costs

UMA KANNAN @Bengaluru

ORGANISATIONS are now focusing on reducing costs by leveraging emerging technologies to improve operations, productivity and to streamline processes. With increasing customer expectations, organisations have to adopt new technologies to improve their business efficiency. Firms are making use of cloud-based solutions, technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, Internet of Things, machine learning so that these technologies can provide them competitive advantage and also save costs.

Phani Tangirala, head of solutions and delivery (digital and technology services) at Expleo, says emerging technologies are enabling businesses to transcend traditional boundaries—geographical, market-based, or conceptual—with a significant level of personalisation and sustainability that today's customers expect.

"Cloud computing, for instance, helps startups think, dream, and grow big in ways previously unimaginable. IoT provides real-time global data, driving smarter decision-making. AI is augmenting human intellect, enhancing creativity and strategic thinking. GenAI has transformed content creation making it more engaging and personalised," he says. With emerging technologies, we're not just cutting costs but shaping businesses to be resilient, responsive, and ready for tomorrow's challenges, Tangirala adds.

Teaching AI

Tech giants are also exploring generative AI to cut costs. Recent data suggests that 35% of global companies are using AI in their business. Recently, OpenAI introduced Sora, its text-to-video model. OpenAI is teaching AI to understand the physical world in motion and the idea behind this is to train models that can help solve problems. OpenAI says Sora can generate videos up to a minute long while maintaining visual quality and adherence to the user's prompt. This automation process can significantly reduce costs.

This is an advertisment issued pursuant to Regulation 30(1) of the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021 as amended, for information purpose only.

ICL Fincorp Limited

ICL Fincorp Limited (**"our Company" or "the Company" or "the Issuer"**) was originally incorporated as 'Jawahar Finance Limited' at Chennai, a public limited company under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, pursuant to a certificate of incorporation dated December 9, 1991, issued by RoC. The name of our Company was changed to 'Irinjalakuda Credits & Leasing Company Limited' pursuant to a fresh certificate of incorporation dated April 26, 2004 issued by the RoC. Later, the name of our Company was changed to 'ICL Fincorp Limited' pursuant to a fresh certificate of incorporation dated May 8, 2016 issued by the RoC.Our Company holds a certificate of registration dated June 09, 2016 bearing registration number B-07.00437 issued by the Reserve Bank of India (**"RBI"**) to carry on the activities of a non-banking financial company without accepting public deposits under Section 45 IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. For further details about our Company, see *"History and Certain Other Corporate Matters"* on page 92 of the Prospectus dated March 28, 2024 (**"Prospectus"**).

Registered Office: No.61/1, VGP Complex, First Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai– 600 083, Tamil Nadu, India. **Corporate Office:** ICL Fincorp Limited, Main Road, Irinjalakuda, Thrissur– 680 121, Kerala, India. **Telephone:** +91 480 2670400, 2828071, 2831305; **Corporate Identification Number:** U65191TN1991PLC021815; **PAN:** AAACJ1806C; **E-mail:** info@iclfincorp.com; **Website:** www.iclfincorp.com **Company Secretary and Compliance Officer:** Visakh T.V.; **Email:** cs@iclfincorp.com; **Telephone:** +91 480 2670400, 2828071, 2831305; **Chief Financial Officer:** Madhavankutty Thekkedath; **Email:** cfo@iclfincorp.com; **Telephone:** +91 480-2670400, 2828071, 2831305.

(Please scan the QR code to view this advertisement)

THE ISSUE

PUBLIC ISSUE BY OUR COMPANY OF 7,50,000 SECURED, REDEEMABLE, NON-CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 1,000 EACH, ("NCDs") AT PAR, FOR AN AMOUNT AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 7,50,000 THOUSAND, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "ISSUE SIZE". THE ISSUE IS BEING MADE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (ISSUE AND LISTING OF NON-CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES) REGULATIONS, 2021, AS AMENDED, THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND RULES MADE THEREUNDER TO THE EXTENT NOTIFIED AND THE SEBI MASTER CIRCULAR AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME. THE ISSUE IS NOT PROPOSED TO BE UNDERWRITTEN.

OUR PROMOTERS

(i) Kuzhuppilly Govinda Menon Anilkumar; **Email:** anil@iclfincorp.com; **Telephone:** + 91 8589020137; and (ii) Umadevi Anilkumar; **Email:** uma@iclfincorp.com; **Telephone:** +91 8589020186. For further details see *"Our Promoter"* on page 109 of the Prospectus.

CREDIT RATING: "ACUITE BBB-"WITH STABLE OUTLOOK BY ACUITE RATINGS & RESEARCH LIMITED

Our Company has received rating of "ACUITE BBB-" with stable outlook for an amount of ₹5,00,000 thousand by Acuite vide rating letter dated February 29, 2024. Further, Acuite has provided the rating of "ACUITE BBB-" with a stable outlook vide rating letter dated October 17, 2023 for an amount of ₹15,00,000 thousand which was reaffirmed by Acuite vide rating letter dated February 29, 2024 for the NCDs proposed to be issued pursuant to the Issue. The rating given by Acuite Ratings and Research Limited is valid as on the date of the Prospectus and shall remain valid on the date of the issue and allotment of NCDs and the listing of the NCDs on BSE. The ratings provided by Acuite Ratings and Research Limited may be suspended, withdrawn or revised at any time by the assigning rating agency and should be evaluated independently of any other rating. These ratings are not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and Investors should take their own decisions. Please refer to Annexure I on page 371 of the prospectus for the rating rationale and press release.

ISSUE PRE-CLOSES TODAY i.e., FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024*
LAST DATE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024.

**Pursuant to the Prospectus dated March 28, 2024, the Issue opened on Friday, April 05, 2024 and was scheduled to close at 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, with an option for early closure or extension in compliance of Regulation 33A of the SEBI NCS Regulations by such period as may be decided by the Board of Directors of our Company or the Debenture Issue Committee thereof. Accordingly, our Company has exercised the option of early closure and the Debenture Issue Committee of our Company, vide resolution dated Wednesday, April 10, 2024, has decided to close the Issue on Friday, April 12, 2024 in compliance of Regulation 33A of the SEBI NCS Regulations.*
In terms of the Prospectus, our Company is giving this public notice of such early closure. Application Forms for the Issue will be accepted only from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time) or such extended time as may be permitted by the Stock Exchange, on Working Days during the Issue Period. On the Issue Closing Date, Application Forms will be accepted only between 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and uploaded until 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time) or such extended time as may be permitted by the Stock Exchange. Further pending mandate requests for bids placed on the last day of bidding will be validated by 5.00 p.m. on one Working Day post the Issue Closing Date i.e. Friday, April 12, 2024. For further details, please refer to "Issue Related Information" on page 298 of the Prospectus.

NCD ALLOTMENT WILL BE MADE IN DEMATERIALISED FORM ONLY. ALLOTMENTS WILL BE MADE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LEAD MANAGER AND DESIGNATED STOCK EXCHANGE ON FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS BASED ON THE DATE OF UPLOAD OF EACH APPLICATION INTO THE ELECTRONIC PLATFORM OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE, IN EACH PORTION SUBJECT TO THE ALLOCATION RATIO. HOWEVER, ON THE DATE OF OVER SUBSCRIPTION AND THEREAFTER, THE ALLOTMENT SHOULD BE MADE TO THE APPLICANT IN PROPORTIONATE BASIS. FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE REFER TO "ISSUE RELATED INFORMATION" ON PAGE 298 OF THE PROSPECTUS DATED MARCH 28, 2024. ALLOTMENT ON "FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS" #

 # As per the SEBI Master Circular, the allotment in this Issue is required to be made on the basis of date of upload of each application into the electronic book of the Stock Exchange. For further details refer section titled "Issue Related Information" on page 298 of the Prospectus.

ISSUE STRUCTURE

Options	I#	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Frequency of Interest Payment	Monthly*	Monthly*	Monthly*	Monthly*	Cumulative	Cumulative	Cumulative	Annually**	Annually**	Cumulative
Minimum Application	10 NCDs (₹ 10,000) (across all options of NCDs)									
In multiples of thereafter (₹)	1 NCDs (₹ 1,000) after the minimum application									
Face Value/ Issue Price of NCDs (₹/ NCD)	₹ 1,000									
Tenor	13 Months	24 Months	36 Months	60 Months	13 Months	24 Months	36 Months	24 Months	36 Months	68 Months
Coupon (% per annum) for NCD Holders in all Categories	11.00%	11.50%	12.00%	12.50%	NA	NA	NA	11.75%	12.25%	NA
Effective Yield (% per annum) for NCD Holders in all Categories	11.57%	12.13%	12.68%	13.24%	11.55%	12.36%	13.03%	11.75%	12.25%	13.73%
Mode of Interest Payment	Through various modes									
Amount (₹/ NCD) on Maturity for NCD Holders in all Categories	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,125.16	1,254.40	1,423.83	1,000	1,000	2,000
Maturity / Redemption Date (months from the Deemed Date of Allotment)	13 Months	24 Months	36 Months	60 Months	13 Months	24 Months	36 Months	24 Months	36 Months	68 Months
Put and Call Option	Not Applicable									
Nature of indebtedness	Secured									

*#Our Company shall allocate and allot Option I NCDs wherein the Applicants have not indicated the choice of the relevant NCD Options. *With respect to Options where interest is to be paid on a monthly basis, relevant interest will be calculated on the face value of the NCDs from the first day till the last date of every month during the tenor of such NCDs, and paid on the first day of every subsequent month. For the first interest payment for NCDs under the monthly options, interest from the Deemed Date of Allotment till the last day of the subsequent month will be clubbed and paid on the first day of the month next to that subsequent month. The last interest payment under monthly options will be made at the time of redemption of the NCDs. **With respect to Options where interest is to be paid on an annual basis, relevant interest will be paid on each anniversary of the Deemed Date of Allotment on the face value of the NCDs. The last interest payment under annual Options will be made at the time of redemption of the NCDs. Note : (1) Please refer to Annexure III for details pertaining to the cash flows of the Company in accordance with the SEBI Master Circular. (2) Subject to applicable tax deducted at source, if any.*

CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE COMPANY AS REGARDS ITS OBJECTS: INVESTORS ARE REQUESTED TO REFER CLAUSE 3 OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE COMPANY FOR THE MAIN OBJECTS AND THE OBJECTS INCIDENTAL AND ANCILLARY TO THE ATTAINMENT OF MAIN OBJECT OF THE COMPANY. THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE COMPANY IS A MATERIAL DOCUMENT FOR INSPECTION IN RELATION TO THE ISSUE. FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE SEE *"MATERIAL CONTRACTS AND DOCUMENTS FOR INSPECTION"* BEGINNING ON PAGE 368 OF THE PROSPECTUS.
LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY: LIMITED BY SHARES

AMOUNT OF CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE: THE ISSUED, SUBSCRIBED AND PAID UP SHARE CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY AS ON DECEMBER 31, 2023 IS AS FOLLOWS:

Particulars	Aggregate value (in ₹)
AUTHORISED SHARE CAPITAL	
10,00,00,000 Equity Shares of face value ₹10 each	100,00,00,000
50,00,000 Preference Shares of face value ₹100 each	50,00,00,000
TOTAL AUTHORISED SHARE CAPITAL	**150,00,00,000**
ISSUED, SUBSCRIBED AND PAID-UP SHARE CAPITAL	
4,73,93,561 Equity shares of face value ₹10 each	47,39,35,610
2,84,000 Preference Shares of face value ₹100 each	2,84,00,000
Total issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital	**50,23,35,610**
SECURITIES PREMIUM ACCOUNT	
Securities premium account before the Issue	28,92,56,010

AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION FORM: Application forms can be obtained from: ICL FINCORP LIMITED - Telephone No.: +91 480 2670400, 2828071, 2831305; Lead Manager : Saffron Capital Advisors Private Limited - Telephone No.: +91 22 49730394 and the office of Syndicate Member, Trading Members, Designated Intermediary(ies) and Designated Branches of the SCSBs. Electronic application forms will be available on the websites of the SCSBs that permit submission of ASBA Application electronically. Application forms may be downloaded from the websites of Stock Exchange, Lead Manager and Syndicate Member. Additionally, UPI Investor making an application in the Issue can also make bid through online (app / web) interface/ platform of the BSE i.e. **"BSE Direct"**. Further, BSE Direct platform can be accessed at https://www.bsedirect.com & or can be accessed through mobile app. Further, application forms will also be provided to Designated Intermediaries at their request.

AVAILABILITY OF PROSPECTUS: Investors are advised to refer to the Prospectus and the *"Risk Factors"* on page 16 of the Prospectus, before applying to the Issue. Physical copy of the Prospectus may be obtained from the Registered Office of the Company and the Lead Manager. Full copies of the Prospectus will also be available on the website of the Issuer at www.iclfincorp.com, the Lead Manager at www.saffronadvisor.com, BSE at www.bseindia.com and SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in.

The Issue shall remain open for subscription on Working Days from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time), during the period indicated in the Prospectus, except that the Issue may close on such earlier date or extended date as may be decided by the Board of Directors of our Company or the Debenture Issue Committee, subject to relevant approvals (subject to a minimum period of three working days and a maximum period of 10 working days from the date of opening of this Issue). In the event of an early closure or extension of the Issue, our Company shall ensure that notice of such early closure or extension is given to the prospective investors through an advertisement in a national daily newspaper and a regional daily newspaper in Tamil Nadu where the registered office is located, with wide circulation on or before such earlier date or extended date of closure. Application Forms for the Issue will be accepted only from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time) or such extended time as may be permitted by the Stock Exchange, on Working Days during the Issue Period. On the Issue Closing Date, Application Forms will be accepted only between 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and uploaded until 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time) or such extended time as may be permitted by the Stock Exchange.

ASBA Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!! | Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account, Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.

UPI - Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors. Bidders are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN.

UPI is now available for Retail Individual Investors submitting bids up to an application value of ₹ 5,00,000, applying through Designated Intermediaries, SCSBs or through the BSE Direct App / Web interface of stock exchange or any other permitted methods. For details of the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in the Application form and also refer to the section of *"Issue Procedure"* on page 319 of the prospectus. List of the banks supporting UPI is also available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. **Axis Bank Limited** has been appointed as the Sponsor bank for the issue, in accordance with the requirements of the SEBI Master Circular.

LISTING: The NCDs offered through the Prospectus are proposed to be listed on BSE Limited (**"BSE"**) and BSE shall be the Designated Stock Exchange. Our Company has received an 'in-principle' approval from BSE vide their letter no. DCS/BM/PI-BOND/031/23-24 dated March 27, 2024.
GENERAL RISK: Investment in non-convertible securities is risky, and investors should not invest any funds in such securities unless they can afford to take the risk attached to such investments. Investors are advised to take an informed decision and to read the risk factors carefully before investing in this offering. For taking an investment decision, the investors must rely on their own examination of the issuer and the issue, including the risks involved. Specific attention of the investors is invited to the chapter titled *"Risk Factors"* on page 16 and *"Material Developments"* on page 114 of the Prospectus, before making an investment in this Issue. The Prospectus has not been and will not be approved by any Regulatory Authority in India, including the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**"SEBI"**), the Reserve Bank of India (**"RBI"**), any Registrar of Companies or any Stock Exchange in India nor do they guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the Prospectus.
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE Limited should not in any way be deemed or construed that the draft offer document has been cleared or approved by BSE Limited nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the prospectus. The investors are advised to refer to the draft offer document / offer document for the full text of the disclaimer clause of the BSE Limited.
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF USE OF BSE ELECTRONIC PLATFORM: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by the BSE to use their network and software of the Online system should not in any way be deemed or construed as compliance with various statutory requirements approved by the Exchange; nor does it in any manner warrant, certify or endorse the correctness or completeness of any of the compliance with the statutory and other requirements; nor does it take any responsibility for the financial or other soundness of this Company, its promoters, its management or any scheme or project of this Company.
NAMES OF THE SIGNATORIES AT THE TIME OF SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION COMPANY AND THE NUMBER OF SHARES SUBSCRIBED FOR BY THEM AT THE TIME OF SIGNING THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION: Given are the names of the signatories of the Memorandum of Association of the Company and the number of equity shares subscribed of face value of ₹ 10/- each by them at the time of signing of Memorandum of Association: J. Amarchand Kothari (10 equity shares allotted), A Badal Kanwar (10 equity shares allotted), K. Ashok Bohra (10 equity shares allotted), Subash Chand Jain (10 equity shares allotted), Mahaveer Chand Kothari (10 equity shares allotted), K. Ashok Kumar Jain (10 equity shares allotted) and Narendra Kumar Jain (10 equity shares allotted) at the time of incorporation of the Company aggregating to 70 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 10/- each.
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF ACUITE: An Acuite Rating does not constitute an audit of the rated entity and should not be treated as a recommendation or opinion that is intended to substitute for a financial adviser's or investor's independent assessment of whether to buy, sell or hold any security. Ratings assigned by Acuite are based on the data and information provided by the issuer and obtained from other reliable sources. Although reasonable care has been taken to ensure that the data and information is true. Acuite, in particular, makes no representation or warranty, expressed or implied with respect to the adequacy, accuracy or completeness of the information relied upon. Acuité is not responsible for any errors or omissions and especially states that it has no financial liability whatsoever for any direct, indirect or consequential loss of any kind, arising from the use of its ratings. Ratings assigned by Acuite are subject to a process of surveillance which may lead to a revision in ratings as and when the circumstances so warrant. Please visit our website (www.acuite.in) for the latest information on any instrument rated by Acuite.
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF RBI: The company is having a valid certificate of registration dated June 9, 2016 under section 45 IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. A copy of the Prospectus has not been filed with or submitted to the Reserve Bank of India (**"RBI"**). It is distinctly understood that the Prospectus should not in anyway be deemed or construed to be approved or vetted by RBI. RBI does not accept any responsibility or guarantee about the present position as to the financial soundness of the issuer or for the correctness of any of the statements or representations made or opinions expressed by the issuer and for discharge of liability by the issuer.
RBI neither accepts any responsibility nor guarantee for the payment of any amount due to any investor in respect of the proposed NCDs.

LEAD MANAGER TO THE ISSUE
SAFFRON energising ideas
SAFFRON CAPITAL ADVISORS PRIVATE LIMITED
605, Center Point, 6th floor, Andheri Kurla Road, J. B. Nagar, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 059, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 49730394 **Email:** ipos@saffronadvisor.com
Website: www.saffronadvisor.com
Contact Person: Gaurav Khandelwal / Vipin Gupta

DEBENTURE TRUSTEE
*MITCON CREDENTIA PARTNER WITH TRUSTED CREDENTIALS
MITCON CREDENTIA TRUSTEESHIP SERVICES LIMITED
(formerly known as MITCON Trusteeship Services Limited)
1402 / 1403, B wing, Dalamal Tower, 14th Floor, Free Press Journal Marg, 211 Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 22828200 **Email:** contact@mitconcredentia.in
Website: www.mitconcredentia.com **Contact Person:** Vaishali Urkude

REGISTRAR TO THE ISSUE
CAMEO
CAMEO CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED
Subramanian Building, No.1 Club House Road, Chennai-600002, Tamil Nadu, India Tel: +91 44 40020700
Fax: +91 44 28460129 **Email:** ipo@cameoindia.com
Website: www.cameoindia.com **Contact Person:** Sreepriya K

CREDIT RATING
Acuite RATINGS & RESEARCH
ACUITE RATINGS & RESEARCH LIMITED
708, Lodha Supremus, Lodha iThink Campus, Kanjurmarg (East), Mumbai - 400 042
Tel: +91 99698 98000 **Email:** chitra.mohan@acuite.in
Website: www.acuite.in **Contact Person:** Chitra Mohan

STATUTORY AUDITOR
MANIKANDAN & ASSOCIATES, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Manikandan & Associates, Chartered Accountants Krishna Arcade, Near Marathompilly Krishna Temple, KSRTC Road, Chalakudy Thrissur, Kerala - 680307 **Tel:** +91 9447100504, 8606836564
Email: ckmauditors@gmail.com **Website:** manikandanca.com
Contact Person: C.K. Manikandan

COMPLIANCE OFFICER & COMPANY SECRETARY
VISAKH T.V
COMPANY SECRETARY
Visakh T.V.
ICL Fincorp Limited
Main Road, Irinjalakuda Thrissur-680121
Tel.: +91 480 267 0400, 282 8071, 283 1305

INVESTORS MAY CONTACT THE REGISTRAR TO THE ISSUE OR THE COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER IN CASE OF ANY PRE ISSUE OR POST ISSUE RELATED ISSUES SUCH AS NON RECEIPT OF INTIMATION OF ALLOTMENT, DEMAT CREDIT OF ALLOTTED NCD'S OR REFUNDS, AS THE CASE MAY BE.

*MITCON Credentia Trusteeship Services Limited (formerly known as MITCON Trusteeship Services Limited) under Regulation 8 of the SEBI NCS Regulations has by its letter dated March 4, 2024 given its consent for its appointment as Debenture Trustee to this issue and for its name to be included in the Prospectus and in all the subsequent periodical communications sent to the holders of the debentures issued pursuant to this Issue.
PUBLIC ISSUE ACCOUNT BANK: AXIS BANK LIMITED: **SYNDICATE MEMBER:** SAFFRON CAPITAL ADVISORS PRIVATE LIMITED.
DISCLAIMER OF THE ISSUER: ICL Fincorp Limited (**"Company"**), subject to market conditions, and other considerations, is proposing a public issue of secured redeemable non-convertible debentures (**"NCDs"**) and has filed a prospectus dated March 28, 2024 (**"Prospectus"**) with the Registrar of Companies, Tamil Nadu at Chennai (**"RoC"**), BSE Limited (**"BSE"**) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (**"SEBI"**). The Prospectus is available on the website of the Company at www.iclfincorp.com, on the website of BSE at www.bseindia.com, on the website of the lead manager at www.saffronadvisor.com and on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. Investors proposing to participate in the Issue should invest only on the basis of the information contained in the Prospectus. Investors should note that investment in the NCDs involves a high degree of risk and for details in relation to the same, refer to the Prospectus, including the section titled *"Risk Factors"* and *"Material Developments"* beginning on page 16 and 114 respectively of the Prospectus. Capitalised terms not defined herein shall have the same meaning as assigned to such terms in the Prospectus.

PLACE: Chennai
DATE: April 11, 2024

For **ICL Fincorp Limited,**
Sd/-
K.G. Anilkumar
(Chairman & Managing Director) DIN: 00766739